

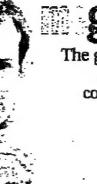
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ECEMBER 6 1997

http://www.the-times.co.uk

HUNTING AT HIGHGROVE WEEKEND joins the pack

BATTLE OF THE DINOSAURS McEnroe v Borg SPORT



Kidnapper chased through hospital

Newborn baby snatched from mother's side

KATHRYN KNIGHT

A THREE-HOUR old baby was snatched from her cot at her sleeping mother's side in a modern hospital maternity ward yesterday by a woman who managed to evade its elaborate security system.

The 6lb 1502 girl, Karli, was born by caesarian section at 9.50am and her father, Karl Hawthorne, was telephoning relatives to break the news when she was snatched from Basildon General Hospital, Essex at 12.50pm.

Tanya Hawthome was in the bed closest to the entrance of the Willow Ward and a mother occupying a bed a few feet away saw the abductor and ran to a nearby nurses' station to raise the alarm.

Nurses chased the woman. 25-30, through the hospital but were unable to cutch her. She was driven away in a black; Renault Laguna by a man at high speed on the wrong side of the road.

Police cordoned off the area around the building, a heli-copter searched overhead and officers with tracker dogs scoured the grounds but no trace of the car or the abduc-

A woman is seen in black can driving away on the wrong side of the road with its

COURT & SOCIAL ____24

UNIT TRUSTS

WEEKEND MONEY 53-64

WEEKEND

GARDENING II, I3

PROPERTY

WEATHER CROSSWORD...

Caesarean section 10.15am: Mother Tanya and baby brought back to Willow

room to phone relatives ☐ 12.50pm: Baby abducted

tors was found. Detectives studied video tape from closed circuit television cameras but it is believed the woman was able to enter the maternity ward because closed circuit cameras were not being monitored at the time. Staff reported seeing

woman fitting the abductor's description — 5ft 6in, wearing a three-quarter length beige coat - acting suspiciously around the entrance to the maternity ward earlier in the shown out of the building.

Basildon Hospital spent £100,000 on security for the maternity ward when it was built four years ago but it did not electronically tag bables. Security was tightened at hospitals after the abduction of baby Alexandra Griffiths. from from St Thomas's Hospi-London, in 1990, and

were chased by staff who tried to catch her, but she was too Although the baby-snatcher had to go through three doors with cameras trained on them before reaching the ward, as there was no one watching the screens by the unit's entrance no alarm was raised. Abbie Humphries, from Not-This falls short of the NHS

Executive guidelines which says staff should monitor all those entering and leaving the unit. The last door on to the ward had a numeric lock and intercom system but it is believed the abductor slipped through as somebody walked

Medical Centre in 1994. Both

babies were found unharmed.

cern for Karli because she was

so young and had not been fed

since she was born. Christo-

pher Welch, clinical director of

maternity and paediatrics, said: "Without proper food

and fluids the blood sugar will

drop and this will affect the

baby's brain functions. The

baby could become dehydrat-

ed and we are worried about

brain damage. Night is falling

and it is getting cold so it is

now becoming critical that we

Answering criticisms that

the unit was not fully

equipped to monitor the busy

activity of a maternity area,

Mr Welch said: "The way we

organise security is that we

use staff as security. This lady

They were seen leaving and

find her."

Doctors expressed their con-

Mrs Hawthrone was taken from the maternity ward to a seperate part of the hospital to recover. The couple - who are not married but who both use the surname Hawthorne have a four-year-old boy and a nine-year-old girl.

David Bright said: "The mother and father and the family are distraught as are the members of the hospital. We need urgently to trace the baby, it has not been fed since it was born."

Security failure, page 2

SPENCER BACK IN BRITAIN



Earl Spencer and his son Louis arriving at Heathrow yesterday. Lord Spencer, granted

a divorce in South Africa this week, was accompanied by all four children (PHOTOGRAPH PA)

Life for RAF man who killed wife

GREATER

LETTERS A SENIOR RAF officer who OBITUARIES murdered his wife over his SIMON JENKINS _____22 infatuation with a young Serbian interpreter was sen-THEATRES. tenced to life imprisonment vesterday.

Squadron Leader Nicholas Tucker, 46, who is based at RAF Honington, Suffolk. looked stunned as the 10-2 majority verdict was delivered after a 13-day hearing at Norwich Crown Court. The jury deliberated for seven

Mr Justice Gage told him that he had been convicted of a executed act".

The judge said he had no doubt that Tucker was "besotted" with interpreter Dijana Dudukovic, 2l, and this was the motivation for the murder of his wife, Carol.

Tucker, an RAF Regiment officer for 27 years, who had seen service in the Northern Ireland and the Gulf War, had become involved with Miss Dudukovic while serving with the United Nations in the former Yugoslavia. He strangled then drowned Mrs Tucker in the River Lark at

before faking a car crash in an attempt to cover his tracks, the court was told.

Carol Tucker's brother said last night that he thought that justice had been done. Michael Burch, 62, a retired RAF squadron leader who lives in Oswestry, Shropshire, said: "I think Nick has got what he deserved. But it's very difficult to know what to say about him. The whole family is

Mr Burch said he had spoken to Tucker's daughter Vanessa. 22, who is married and lives in Auckland, New

18, who is currently away at school. He said: "I think they would have been shocked whatever verdict there had been," he added. "I think what has happened is just beginning to sink in."

Detective Inspector Michael Bier, who led the inquiry, said: Tucker is a deceitful individual who planned the murder of his wife. Carol was a devoted wife and mother, supportive and loyal. Her relatives now have an answer to what happened on that fatal

Fool for love, page 3

Christmas message? A load of rubbish

Buying The Times mersens
Austria Sch od: Belgium B Frs 110;
Canadia \$3.50. Canadies Pss 325;
Cyprus CC; 20; Denmark Dkr 18.00;
Finland Frik 46.50; France F 18.00;
Gerolany DM 4.50; Gibratiar 90p;
Greece Dr 900. Nesherlands Fl 6.50;
Italy I 4.700; Eurembourg II 100;
Madierra Esc 350; Mahra 45C;
Morocca Dr 900; Nesherlands Fr 525;
Sweden Scr 35.00; Sahzerland S Fr 526; Frantisla Din 2.200; USA \$3.50.

TO ME IT LACKS PRESENTS

By Dalya Alberge ARTS CORRESPONDENT

Lackford, Suffolk, in July 1995

AN ARTIST commissioned to create the annual Christmas tree for the Tate Gallery in London has decided to break with tradition by displaying only a large bin filled to the brim with rubbish.

Not any old rubbish though. There is a seasonal theme - offerings of Christmas leftovers: empty bottles, drink cans, used Christmas

paper, broken decorations, the packaging from toys, gifts or food products and dead or broken Christmas trees. The work's title? Christmas Tree

The installation is the work of Michael Landy, 34, an artist at the height of the contemporary art tree. His critically acclaimed work includes displaying shoppingtrolleys, market stalls and bread trays in galleries. One

social and political satire of Hogarth and Swift Others have demonstrated a less admiring response: it is said that his 1996 garbage-can installation at a central London gallery was thrown out by the night cleaners.

With Christmas Tree 1997, according to the Tate, he wanted to show "the aftermath of Christmas . . . to draw attention to the conspicuous consumption which so often surrounds the festive scason"



BUSINESS Today the best City pages

profile the computer nerd Starting Page 26 with share prices

MONEY

The award-winning team on how to make the lest of the end of PEPs and TESSAs and the arrival of leas In section 2 with unit trust prices

face watchdog inquiry over offshore trust By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

Robinson to

THE Parliamentary standards watchdog is to investigate whether Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, should have declared a multimillionpound offshore trust in the Commons Register of Members' Interests.

The disclosure will add to the pressure on Mr Robinson, the wealthiest member of the Government, to make a more detailed statement about his complex business affairs.

Peter Lilley, the Shadow Chancellor, wrote to Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner for Standards, after the disclosure that the Orion Trust had bought E3 million of shares in TransTec. the engineering company Mr Robinson founded 16 years ago, since he became a Treasury minister.

Robert Sheldon, the Labour chairman of the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee said yesterday: "Sir Gordon Downey will make a detailed analysis of the complaint and report back to my committee. He will make a recommendation on whether we should mount a full inquiry or not. I will take no view on the complaint until he has reported to the committee."

The prospect of a full-scale investigation will dismay the Labour leadership, which has sought unsuccessfully to draw a line under the affair since details of the offshore trust became known at the weekend. TransTec shares worth more than £12 million, to which Mr Robinson was entitled to subscribe under a massive rights issue, are held in the trust, where any gains they generate

will be shielded from tax Labour is committed to the abolition of offshore trusts. In a statement last weekend

Mr Robinson said he had not publicised the trust, which was set up for him by a wealthy friend the late Madame Joska Bourgeois, on the advice of his solicitors and Sir Terence Burns, the Treasury Permanent Secretary.

The Tories are pressing Sir Terence to say whether he knew about the post-election shares purchase by the trust in Mr Robinson's company when he gave the advice.

Mr Robinson was undaunted by the latest twist. In a statement issued by the Treasury last night he said: "I made a full statement last Saturday. I have nothing further to add."

One minister said: "Geoffrey has the full support of the Prime Minister and the Chancellor. The Tories are just muck spreading."

Letters, page 23



Robinson: pressure to make detailed statement



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Tucker's uly 1995. er longsidence. ntreaties ontacted on Adv-Refugee indon a rs death

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How security failed mother and baby



'Nannycam spy cameras have been flying off the shelves since Woodward was convicted'

> James Bone's **New York Diary** Page 12



'I am neither high-brow nor low-brow. l will listen to anything'

Valerie Grove meets Gerald Kaufman Page 21

THE woman who stole baby yards through three more karli passed dozens of nurs-corridors past side wards and ing staff and bypassed a security door to make her way into the recovery rooms in Willow ward, where she took the sleeping child from the first bed that she came to.

Network of cameras was rendered

useless because no one watched the

screens, writes Kathryn Knight

Basildon Hospital installed 13 security cameras in their purpose-built maternity unit after a review of security following the abduction of Abbie Humphries in Birmingham four years ago.

The cameras, part of equip-ment costing £100,000, were the type of equipment recommended in security guidelines issued by the NHS Executive 18 months ago. They cover the main doors and corridors leading to the recovery rooms, but were of no use because no staff were monitoring the television cameras when the abductor entered.

The abductor went through three doors with cameras trained on them before reaching the ward. To enter the maternity unit, the abductor is thought to have entered the main doors, past a welcome desk which is usually staffed by volunteers but yesterday was unmanned. From there she would turn right through a set of unsecured doors leading down a corridor.

From there left through another set of doors, again insecured, up a set of stairs to the first floor. At the top are more doors leading towards Willow ward. Access is only granted via an intercom but it is believed the woman bypassed this by slipping through as someone else made their exit. Video cameras are positioned on this door and pictures are relayed to the

nursing rooms, including the midwives' room, the woman arrived at the four-bed recovery bay where Karli and her mother lay resting.

Karli and her mother lay on the first bed on the right, leading police to believe that the abduction was opportunist. A woman 10ft away on the left of the bay witnessed the abduction and ran 12ft past the mother's bed to the nursing station to raise the alarm. But it was too late. While midwives gave chase, the ab-ductor fled from the ward into waiting black Renault

After the abduction of baby Abbie, it was decided not to tag newborn babies in the unit cause doctors felt they could be tampered with and rendered useless. Instead they rely heavily on the vigilance of nursing staff and also issue parents with written instructions not to leave their babies alone at any time.

Sue Jennings, chief executive at the hospital, said there would be a full security review. "There was a full secabduction of baby Humphries and specific instructions were left with parents not to let their children go with anyone unless they knew them," she said. "It's always easy to do more - clearly if a baby has been taken then the hospital needs to have a further review of its security."

NHS Executive guidelines say that "a culture needs to be developed and continually reinforced within the maternity unit to ensure that staff. parents and visitors share a commitment to maintaining a

Basildon Hospital chief executive Sue Jennings and a consultant display a gown similar to the one that the abducted baby was wearing

rely on an effective feedback system and security training for staff ... It is vital that parents, visitors and staff are aware of the importance of security measures, to report any suspicious behaviour to challenge unidentified people and to never leave infants

Under the guidelines, staff monitoring should be carried out at the point of entrance and exit of the unit. A system for all visitors to check in at a nurses station or reception point is recommended. Tagging of babies is not considered essential and in this case would have made no differ-

raised immediately by the

mother in an adjacent bed. The guidelines recommend that infants should be in view of their parents, however because the mother in the case was recovering from an anaesthetic she was not alert and it was fortunate that the other voman realised what was happening and was quick to

raise the alarm. The guidelines also say that staff should be aware of all visitors on the ward and should be trained to raise their awareness of suspicious behaviour. If a baby is abducted, the guidelines say that the ward should be closed and

Most infants found unhurt

are snatched each year - the majority taken from the street but most are recovered almost immediately.

According to the Portia

Trust, which helps women

BETWEEN 30 and 40 babies

who take babies, fewer than 20 infants have been missing for more than a few hours in the last 30 years. Most were recovered, unharmed, within a week. The longest absence was six months.

In 1990 Alexandra Griffiths

By Adrian Lee was abducted from St Thorn-Karen and Roger, after a 15-

Julie Kelley, 22, took the when 36 hours old. After a 16baby to fulfil a phantom day bunt Janet Griffiths, 33, a pregnancy she had staged to nurse, but no relation to the baby, was caught and sent to a mental hospital where she win back her boyfriend, a court was told. She was put on spent four months. She died probation for three years and ordered to have treatment for from cancer three years ago. personality disorder. Two Abbie Humphries was five babies snatched in 1994, one hours old when she was from University College Hossnatched from the Queen pital, London, and one from Bath's Royal United Hospital, Elizabeth Medical Centre in Nottingham in 1994. She was

larger linal

squad was a fi



bigger taboo than lesbianism

Roger Boyes meets Shere Hite

Page 19

Labour lawyers ready to join revolt on legal aid

By Frances GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LEADING figures in Labour's legal establishment are preparing to revolt over government plans to abolish civil

The Society of Labour Lawyers meets today to vote on a motion that would place it in line with all other groups opposed to the policy, including the Law Society, the Bar and consumer organisations.

The 1,000-strong society has already written privately to Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Lord Chancellor — who is one of its presidents — expressing con-cern about the proposals. Today their annual general meeting is expected to endorse a motion calling on the Government not to withdraw legal aid unless people would be better off under alternative proposals.

They also want further research into "no win, no fee" arrangements, which the goverment plans to take the place of most civil legal aid. in recognition of the "serious and widespread concern" that this must be done to show they benefit consumers.

In their letter earlier this month to Lord Irvine the lawyers said: "Ours is not the reaction of self-interested

know that those involved in our organisation are primarily concerned with legal matters from the perspective of achieving social justice and a fair and balanced society, while recognising the need for radical and fresh approaches to meet today's challenges."

The lawyers argue that "no win, no fee" work will bar the poor from access to justice. People will need insurance to cover them against the other side's costs if they lose and may forfeit up to 25 per cent of their damages if they win, the

Legal threat to tobacco ads deal

as's Hospital, in London,

reunited with her parents,

BY POLLY NEWTON, POLITICAL REPORTER

TOBACCO manufacturers yesterday threatened legal action over the European Union agreement that will ban them from advertising.

They are angry about the deal secured on Thursday night in Brussels to phase out all tobacco advertising and sponsorship by October 2006. Billboard and cinema advertisements will be illegal within three years, and those in newspapers and magazines will be outlawed a year later. Sponsorship of sport and cultural events must end by October 2005, with a further year's grace for "world events" such as Formula One grand prix.

Tessa Jowell, the Public Health Minister, said the deal constituted a victory for the Government. "We have got the protection we were seeking and we have got the flexibility for Formula One and we are delighted," she said. She had originally sought a permanent exemption for Formula One, but indicated earlier this

compromise

Gareth Davis, the chief executive of Imperial Tobacco, said the company believed that the EU might have exceeded its legal powers. "It is an ill-advised decision, because the ban will not have the intended effect of reducing consumption but will merely stifle our ability to compete for market share." he said. Fifteen million adults choose to smoke and tobacco is a legal product. It seems quite wrong that manufacturers should be banned from communicating with

He said the firm was also concerned for small British-based sports such as angling, darts and clay pigeon shooting, which depended on tobacco sponsorship but would suffer "because no one at the meeting bothered to champion their

A spokesman for the Tobacco Manufacturers Association said the flexibility allowed to member states in implement-

He claimed that it was a "blatant abuse" of single market regulations. The manufacturers might also claim that the ban infringes their right to freedom of expression. A Downing Street spokesman said the Government had no reason to believe the directive was not legally sound.

Earlier, David Hinchliffe, Labour chairman of the Commons Health Select Committee, welcomed the directive, but voiced disappointment that the Formula One lobby had in effect "got their way in Europe". He told BBC Radio 4's Today programme: This somewhat undermines the efforts made by other sports to move away from tobacco advertis hope, even at this late stage, that efforts will be made to tighten up the timescale.

Sandy Macara, chairman of the British Medical Association, said Ms Jowel appeared to have secured the best deal possible in the circumstances although it was a pity that it would take so long for the ban to come into force.







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THE BIGGEST PC MANUFACTURER IN THE HIGH STREET

sale of letters by Philip Larkin

Publishers halt

THE publishers of Philip Larkin's poetry have taken legal action to stop a dealer selling a collection of up to 30

Faber & Faber yesterday served a writ against R. A Gekoski, a London dealer in rare books and manuscripts. They had learnt from The Times on Thursday that he was offering the letters for E28.000. The correspondence was

between Larkin, the epitome of the tortured poet, and Charles Monteith, chairman of Faber between 1977 and 1981, and a senior editorial consultant until his death. They include a "wicked" parody of Ted Hughes. If, as Faber believes, it is the published example, it is an impor-tant document and should never have left their Bloomsbury archives.

Monteith, remembered as a quintessential member of the Establishment, died in 1995. He is believed to have sold the letters in 1992 to Dr Gekoski. Among the documents is a note in which Monteith states that they were his property.

Matthew Evans, chairman of Faber & Faber, said: "We believe some of the corres-pondence being sold is the property of Faber & Faber. We went round to chambers this morning to see a counsel who got an injunction restraining Dr Gekoski from selling them until further notice. What we don't know is exactly what's there."

importance of such

letters lies in that they give added insight into an intensely private man. After his death in 1985, Larkin's 30 volumes of

request. Dr Gekoski, who is based in Bloomsbury, said: "I hought the letters from Mr Monteith with his written assurance that he was the owner of the letters. I always do this. He was a former chairman of Faber & Faber and a man of the highest integrity. I have now no reason whatsoever to ques-

tion his judgment. "The material at issue was sold at that time to an American collector and was recently repurchased from an American dealer by ourselves." He added: "I feel that in repurchasing this material, we have done nothing either illegal or immoral and we have the fullest confidence that the matter will be resolved satis-



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He murdered his wife of 23 years ... for a 23-year-old woman who had already lost interest in him

Squadron leader was a fool for love

NICHOLAS TUCKER thought that he could fool the police and the insurance companies. In the end, he was a fool for love.

Even as he killed his wife of 23 years in a faked car accident his 23-year-old Serbian mistress had lost interest in him. She turned down his entreaties to join him in England and married a boyfriend within eight months of Carol Tucker's death.

The squadron leader, who police believe to be the highest ranking officer convicted of murder, had also stood to benefit from £300,000 of insurance policies taken out during a 12-year period, although the jury was not told of

However, he miscalculated here too. A clause in the largest policy, for £171,000 taken out with Sun Alliance in 1990 for death in a road accident, stipulated that one of the couple had to die inside the vehicle. Tucker, who throttled his 15-stone wife before crashing, removed her unconscious body from the car before placing her face down in the

river, where she drowned. Three days after the death of his wife, Tucker, 46, made a one-word entry in his diary. It read: "Insurance?" It was dis-



Carol and Nicholas Tucker on their wedding day

was a reminder to do with

getting his car repaired. Police made the allegations of a financial motive at committal proceedings last year, but the Crown Prosecution Service decided not to put the insurance evidence before jury, relying instead on the sexual motive.

The RAF officer, whom police believe feigned mental illness for a month upon his arrest to prevent their interviewing him while he concocted a defence, was convicted

Honington. Tucker claimed it looked grimly down as the jury announced its 10-2

majority.
He met his lover, Dijana
Dudokovic, when she was assigned to him as an interpreter during a six-month tour of duty as a UN military observer in Bosnia. A new girlfriend, Jenny Peacock, 46. stood by him throughout his trial. The Ministry of Defence said last night that Tucker would be formally "required to leave the services" and faces the loss of pension rights.

Mr Justice Gage told him

then extricated your wife and drowned her. To those who came upon the scene, you feigned unconsciousness and pretended you did not know how she had died.

This was a planned, callous and coolly executed act. I take the view that your subsequent mental breakdown was brought on by feelings of guilt and remorse."

The jury of seven women and five men heard that he had been unable to explain how blobs of his blood from three small unexplained cuts to his forehead were found on his wife's side of the dashboard, and on the outside door on the passenger side. Within hours of the crash,

traffic officers were already suspicious of his account that his wife had grabbed the steering wheel when she saw deer on the road ahead, and that he had swerved into the river at Larkford Bridge, Suffolk. The tyre patterns indicated the car had not swerved but been driven into the river, and

The verdict was relayed to Mrs Tucker's family in Oswestry, where her sister-inlaw Margaret Burch said: "We are still trying to take it in. It will take us quite a little time." David Shipman, Tucker's solicitor, said his client



Dijana Dudokovic with her husband. She said: "I made no promises"

Larger than life figure who was born into Service life

CAROL TUCKER, the officer's 15st wife and mother of their two children, was the cheerful, caring, churchgoing product of a Service

The daughter of Squadron Leader Reginald Burch, who was serving during the war as a flying instructor at the RAF College, Cranwell Lincolnshire, when she was born, Carol Tucker spent her life moving from base to base. Mrs Tucker, who at 52 was eight

years her husband's senior, is remembered as a "bubbly, helpful, friendly person" by her friends.

said: "She was big in every way. She was an extrovert. She would breeze into a room as the life and soul of the party. It was Nick who was the quiet one. I miss her badly.

We grew up very close together.
"She was an ideal Service wife. My mother having been married to a Serviceman, the ideas that Carol inherited may have been a bit oldfashioned. She was a bit of a mother hen. But the younger wives would always come to her for

Squadron Leader Burch, 62, from Oswestry, Shropshire, said his sis-Yesterday her brother, retired ter travelled widely with her hus- Carol Tocker is buried in a Squadron Leader Michael Burch band after meeting him in double grave in the village church-

THE WIFE

Germany where she worked for the Malcolm Clubs - "a sort of upmarket Naafi". He added: "I last saw her about two months before she died when she visited us briefly. As far as I knew the marriage was all right. But you don't know what goes on behind the tront door. aney had never given us any cause for concern. But it wasn't in her nature to say anything if something was wrong. She would keep a stiff

yard at Honington, Suffolk, apparently chosen by her husband. "Nick said there would always be people to look after her there," said Squadron Leader Burch. "But some members of the family expressed

the view that we would have

preferred her to be taken home to

One thing her brother cannot understand was the defence evidence that his sister had a water phobia and drowned in the River Lark when she panicked in the dark. Mr Burch said: "I am

Mrs Tucker was a regular wor- full of fun, full of humour; just a disposition."

shipper at St Michael's, RAF Honington, where the Rev Leigh Spicer was the family's neighbour. He said: "She was a fairly strong personality, quite robust and strong. Anger would have been one of her reactions if she had known that Nick was having an affair. My

had known, she would probably have told Nick he was a silly boy and would have talked it through with him." Wendy Yarnoid, the wife of a Serviceman and Carol's best friend. said: "She was a very large person in every sense — vivacious, bright.

feeling at the time was that if she

cult life for the wives. The men have their careers and the wives bear the brunt Carol was a good wife."

Ian Woodward, a manager at Northgate Motors, in Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, where Mrs Tucker worked, said that she left the company on the morning of her death in order to accompany her husband to his new posting to RAF Innsworth, Gloucestershire.

"One day we were saying goodbye to her and giving her farewell esents, the next day we heard she had been killed. We couldn't believe it. She had such a nice

Temptress who led to officer's downfall

THE GIRLFRIEND

By MICHAEL HORSNELL AND MICHAEL EVANS

THE femme fatale who captivated Tucker refused to give evidence at his trial after recoiling from allegations against her that ranged from

prostitution to espionage.
Dijana Dudokovic, who has married since her affair with the RAF officer, resisted police requests to enter the witness box where she feared her

reputation would be assailed.
The alluring Serbian translator, 23, who served with the UN peacekeeping force in Bosnia, was once under suspicion as a spy for the Serbs, but the allegation was dropped. In as a manipulative woman who had several affairs with UN officers and was prepared to "prostitute herself" with anyone she thought might secure her advancement.

English student at Belgrade University who spent nights with Tucker, 46, at the RAF Club in Piccadilly, yesterday rejected her portrayal as a Mata Hari figure in the Yugoslavian conflict.

From her flat in Zurich.
Switzerland, she said: "Everything that has been said about me is a disgrace. We did not sleep together. I was already engaged when I met him. We were just friends."

Eight months after Tucker's tour of duty ended in July 1995, she had married her longterm boyfriend Nenad Perovanovic, after obtaining a visa allowing her Swiss residence. This was despite the entreaties of Tucker who had contacted both the Immigration Advisory Service and the Refugee Legal Centre in London a month after his wife's death for advice on obtaining asylum for her.

Miss Dudokovic said: "Nick may have been infatuated with me but I made no promises."

Tucker wrote to Miss Dudokovic after the death of his wife protesting his love for her. She tore up his letter and

Rise and fall of an RAF high-flyer

NICHOLAS TUCKER met his wife in Germany - his first posting after being com-missioned into the RAF Regiment in 1970 - where she worked for the Naafi-style Clubs for

They married in 1974, had two children, Vanessa, now 22, and James, i8, and travelled much of the world with the RAF, which he had joined as a cadet after leaving Wilmslow Grammar School. He served in Northern Ireland, Cyprus and Belize before being promoted to squadron leader in 1984 and became an expert in nuclear, biological and chemical (NBC) defence.

Tucker, who was said to be on course for promotion to Wing Commander, helped supervise the move of the regi-

THE HUSBAND

ment's training base from RAF Catterick, North York-shire, to RAF Honington where he served as deputy chief instructor until his arrest. He returned from the Gulf in 1991, where he served at Dahran and Riyadh as NBC advisor to the force commander in the build-up to the Gulf War. His marriage was sound but he claimed to

have become impotent. He absorbed himself in researching military history and recently had his first book In Adversity - the history of honours and awards made to members of the RAF Regi-ment — published by Jade Publishing. He had delivered book. When he was not writ-ing he devoted himself to his collection of medals and bayonets, and to his interest in

family genealogy.

The posting to RAF
Honington had been due to finish in December 1994 but, because Vanessa was still a student at the West Suffolk College, a move would have been inconvenient for the

He overcame the problem of deferring their departure from Suffolk by applying for a sixmonth tour of duty in the former Yugoslavia as a United Nations military observer from January 1995. It was there that his passions there that his passions transreignited by his Serbian translator, Dijana Dudokovic.

come her "lap dog", neglecting his duties to the detriment of the UN peace keeping force in Bosnia. He would comandeer personnel carriers to take her shopping in Zagreb when he should have been on patrol, escort her to "smoothy" parties where he fetched and carried the food and drinks, give her time off whenever she wanted, fix the rotas so they could be together, and run

errands for her family. Tucker had applied for a two month extension to his tour of duty in Bosnia to be with Dijana, but, when this was turned down he returned to RAF Honington on July 15, 1995. Six days later he took his wife out to dinner at the Red Lion pub at Icklingham, Suffolk - "to talk things over".

The normally methodical officer was said to have be-Lawyer jailed for | Call to end court drink-drive lie

By PETER FOSTER

A LAWYER who lied to protect her policeman boyfriend from a drink-driving charge was jailed at the Old Bailey yesterday for perverting the course of justice.

Penelope Schofield, 35, who had worked for the Crown Prosecution Service, was led sobbing from the dock after she was sentenced to three months. Detective Constable Nigel Phillips was jailed for 16 months for his part in their attempted deception.

The court had earlier been told that the couple spun a web of deceit after Phillips, 31. had an accident as he drove home from a CID Christmas party last year when he was three times over the legal limit. On the way back to the cottage in Hampshire he shared with Schofield, he struck the kerb and had a puncture. In a panic, he coaxed the Range Rover into the nearby Bitterne police

station, where he was based. After being breathalysed and cautioned by police at the station, Phillips made several calls to his girlfriend in which he later admitted asking her to say she had been driving when the accident happened. Richard Lissack, QC, for Schofield, said that a "moment



Schofield: undone by a moment of madness

of madness" had ruined his client's life. "She has lost her name, her position in society and her career. She will almost certainly be struck off by the Law Society, adding to the humiliation she has already heaped upon her head."

For Phillips, Michael Egan. QC, said his client had served the police with distinction for almost ten years. His actions

had been out of character. As he passed sentence, Sir Lawrence Verney, the Recorder of London, said: The interest of the public makes it essential that I pass a prison sentence. That those who offend are deeply involved in the process of public justice makes this even more serious."

ordeal of women

BY A CORRESPONDENT

A JUDGE called for a change in the law yesterday as he passed a ló-year jail sentence on a knife-wielding rapist who was able to "intimidate and humiliate" his victims as he cross-examined them at length in the witness box.

Judge Timothy Pontius said there was "understand-able public concern" that alleged sexual offenders were allowed a "virtually unfettered right" to question those degraded.

The 44-year-old man he was sentencing, who cannot be named for legal reasons, dismissed three legal teams before deciding to represent himself during his three-week-long trail at Knights-bridge Crown Court. The former mechanic made his victims repeat every intimate detail of their ordeals.

the judge spoke of his "mercurial and wholly unpredictable temperament" and said the public in general, and women in particular, needed to be protected from him. "You subjected your victims to merciless cross-examination clearly designed to intimidate and humiliate," the judge said. The judge then appeared

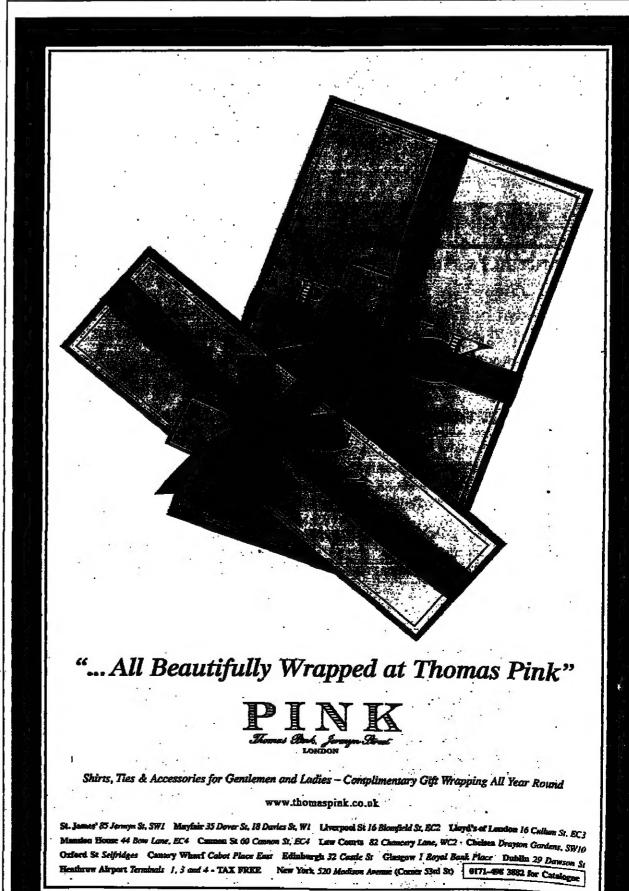
He showed no emotion as

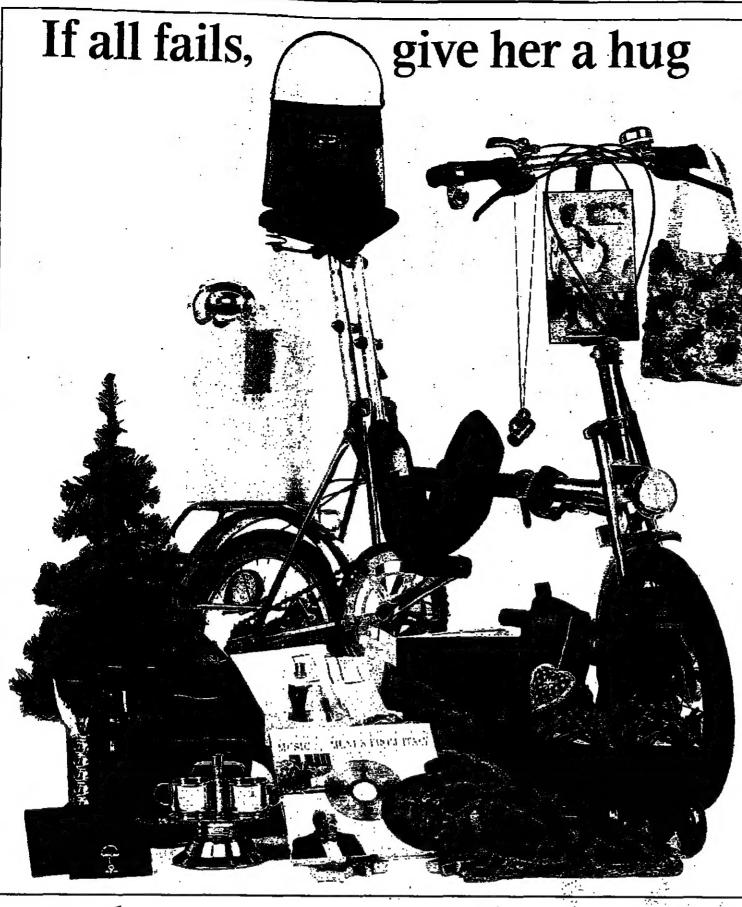
to refer to the way that the man had accused the women he attacked of flirting with him, "wanting it" and "enjoy-ing" what had happened to them. "In the course of questioning them you made the sive suggestions to both witnesses. Those suggestions and indeed the whole of your swiftly and rightly rejected unanimously by the jury."
The judge said: "The of-

fences in June and September of last year both involved protracted and repeated sexu-al violence of a horrifying degree, sexual humiliation, degradation and domination at your hands."
The court heard that the

first victim, a widow of 38, had arrived in London late at night with nowhere to stay. She was lured to his south London flat where he pressed a kitchen knife to her throat and raped her.

The second victim, a neuroscientist of 31, had drunk too much celebrating an exami-nation success. She escaped being raped but suffered an ordeal, first in a grubby concrete rubbish bin recess and then at his home. She was bruised from head to toe.





PRESENTS FOR HER

ith so many shops rejuctant to take back unwanted Christmas presents because it depresses their January till receipts, it is important that you buy the woman in your life the right gift first time. If you find choosing the perfect present too daunting a challenge, then do not be ashamed just to play safe: compromise on something that is sensually feminine, but which can be easily absorbed into the everyday life of the household if it turns out not to be, after all, her heart's most burning desire. This way, if she opens her present on Christmas morning and sighs, "Oh darling, it's absolutely lovely, but I think there's probably still some life left in the pure badger shaving brush/186-piece spanner set/Melinda Messenger cufflinks (one breast per cuff, set in sterling silver, very tasteful) that you also bought me last year", your carefully chosen present is not completely wasted.

Of course, the shops will be closed on Christmas Day, making it difficult actually to go out and buy a replacement gift, but do not despair; just remember that every "intimate" survey you have ever read in Cosmopolitan says that what women most want from their man is a cuddle and a sense of humour. So wrap up your arms in some festive tissue paper and give your wife or girlfriend a warm hug, while telling her that hilarious joke about the Duchess of York and the dried apricots. If she baulks at your generous, affectionate gift, then it is probably just as well you found out she was an ungrateful, humourless little hussy before you had splashed out on buying her a top-of-the-range, Brian Lara-endorsed cricket bat for her next birthday.

JOE JOSEPH

PRESENT her with the with golden embroidery, £100, The ss steel, £475 General Trading Company (0171-730 0411). Black suede from Nauticalia (mail order_01932.253333) diamanté buckle £39.95, Harvey Nichols (0171-235 5000), Give rour life a tree from the BTCV (the British Trust Paperchase (0171-580 Volunteers). For a 8496). For the women donation of £17, who likes nothing volunteers will plant a tree as part of a campaign to increase the UK's native a classical body: ichelangelo's David fridge magnet, £9.95 from initial ideas (mail

woodland cover

(01491 839766).

kit, £35; an indulgeni

set of beth oils and

order, 01548 831070) MIDDLE ROW: Vega raine glass, in a range Baccarat (0171-409 4280). On bike's back: 7767), Black nylon vanity bag, £460, Tanner Krolle (0171-491 2243) with several of candle: silver and candie inside, £59.90. CD case, 295, to carry her music collectionabroad or is Contemporary, and (01749 340500) moonstone, crysta Zarvi's redemptio

830 6300).

bracelet by Sarah Weiss, £460, Koh

never forget: a flight in a Tiger Moth, 2139 for 30 minutes, Red Letter Days (0181-343 5354). Or give her wings on her leet with the latest K2 Extreme Flight infine skates, £159, Road Runner (0171-792 decoration on inlineskate: velvet heart, 23.25, General Trading Company (as before).

FRONT ROW (from

left): French purse, £69, and credit-card dark brown leather wit golden buckle, Harvey Nichols (as before). Two-cup luxury chrome espresso maker, £44.95, Ocean (mail order, 0800 132985). Give her a real taste of Italy with Antonio Carluccio's Music and Menus from Italy, a recipe book with CD for her to sing along to, £16.99, The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401). Or wrap her in a pure luxury; a handembroidered silver silk scarf, £450, Georgina von Etzdorf (0171-409

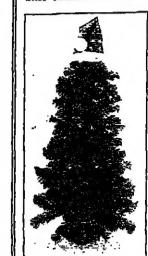
Photographs by Des Jenson. Styling and research by Jennifer

GADGETS

CHRISTMAS is coming, the goose is getting frantic and any time now the decorations should be going up. This year's seasonal Made in China novelty is the singing Christmas tree, which has a sensor attached to a

Walk past the 32inhigh plastic tree and it bursts into life. The branches move to reveal large flashing eyes and a mouth which huge mouth which mouths festive greetings

and bursts of carols. The tree comes with a mains adaptor and has a three-way switch, voiume control and, fortu-



The singing tree

nately, an off switch. Children love it but older elves might find the limited repertoire grates by Christmas Eve.

Wacky Shaky Christmas Pals are 4in-high soft toys built around rigid plastic bodies. Clap your hands and they sing Jingle Bells as if on helium. On a carpet they wobbie furiously but on a smooth surface they jerk through a full circle before turning themselves off.

TIM WAPSHOTT
Singing Christmas
Tree, E49.95 plus p&p,
and Wacky Shaky Christmas Pals, £9.95 plus p&p, from the Gadget Shop (01482 860860).

Where you can buy gifts at a gallop

my 85-year-old mother still

lives up the road so I prefer to

come here," he says:
"I regularly used to buy

dressing gowns as presents from another shop nearby

the Christmas Shopping Stakes, former champion jockey Richard Pitman always waits until well into the final furlong before making his move. Then, on Christmas Eve, he goes galloping into Once A Tree in Cheltenham. knowing it is an odds-on certainty that he will be able to find something there for every-

one on his list. For anyone like me who leaves buying their gifts until the very last moment, it's the perfect place, full of the most interesting and unusual presents," sayx Mr Pitman, 54,

EXCLUSIVE OFFER

oday The Times and Viners offer readers

the chance to buy this quality stainless

steel six-piece saucepan set from their Insight

This stylish set has a highly polished finish.

range for just £99, a saving of £100 on the

matching stainless steel knobs and stay-cool

handles with hanging loops for easy storage.

enclose a cheque/PO(s) made payable to:

it consists of 16, 18 and 20cm saucepans and a

mrrp of £199.

Richard Pitman gets his last-minute

presents from a wood and paper shop, Michael Cable discovers

who is now a racing commentator and best-selling thriller

As the name implies, everything sold in Once A Tree is made from wood or paper. Products come from all around the world and range from toys and games to kitchen utensils and from graceful African figures carved out of

ebony to novelties such as

Save £100 on this

Six-piece saucepan set

wooden wrist watches and wooden fountain pens.

The Cheltenam branch, located in an award-winning. two-storey glass building in the heart of the city's Montpellier shopping area, is one of a chain of six up and down the country.

The Oxford branch is actually nearer to where I'm living these days, but I'm always in

THE SEA TIMES

20cm casserole dish, all with glass lids, plus a

14cm milk pan and 24cm frying pan. both

with a non-stick interior. Each pan has a

5mm encapsulated base allowing the heat to

The saucepans are suitable for all types of

be absorbed quickly, which means food is

hobs except induction. Each pan is dish-

washer safe and guaranteed for ten years.

cooked more efficiently.

or debit my MasterCard/Vista card no.

end coupon and remittance to: The Times Sau

Orders received by December 12 will be despetched in time for Christman. It despitates please return return goods within seven days of receipt for a full refund. No claims for loss in fairnot can be seade after 60 days. Other is subject to availability. Please lick box if you do not wish to receive failing.

THE TIMES SAUCEPAN SET OFFER

CITY EXITEM TOTAL

called The Square Pillow, which was how I first discovered Once A Tree." And he adds: "Their stuff is so irresistible that I usually end up buying presents for myself as well as for other people. We men normally end up with socks and pants and handkerchiefs at Christmas, so I take the opportunity to

spoil myself."

A giraffe carved in the Zimbabwean village of Binga from the wood of the Munyanya tree, a life-size heron made from the Indone-sian softwood belalu and a serpent fashioned from a length of creeper, all purchased from Once A Tree, can be found decorating various corners of the Oxfordshire village home he shares with

Mandy, his wife. He also collects walking sticks, of which Once A Tree has a wide selection, and is very taken with its "rain

my favourite shop

ticks" - dried cactus stems 2-3ft long and a couple of inches wide, with seeds which cascade down inside when you turn them, creating a soothing sound like falling rain. "Great for de-stressing yourself," he

says. It is hard to believe Mr Pitman does suffer from stress. But his life has been tough and success did not come easy. Born within a bookmakers signalling distance of the racecourse at Cheltenham, he became a stable lad because, he says, what else do you do if you're the uneducated runt of the litter who has failed all nine of

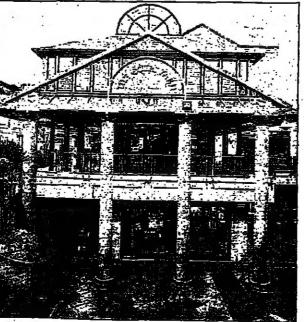
vour O-levels?" He went on to win 470 races. including just about every classic except the Grand Nat-ional, for which he was cruelly pipped in the last few strides in

Eighteen years later, this disappointment was compounded when, as a commentator, he watched exactly the same thing happen to Mark. his son by his first wife Jenny

During his own 15-year riding career, he broke nearly every bone is his body many times over — nose and collar-



Under starter's orders: Richard Pitman with managers Luan Nanness and Belinda Wilson



Once A Tree specialises in wood and paper products

bone at least ten times each. ribs, ankles, legs and arms on a regular basis. On top of that there was the continual torture, for a naturally chunky figure, of sweating off the pounds to make the weight. So why does anybody do it?

There's nothing like thrill of

riding half a ton of thorough-

bred over a fence in front of a big crowd." he shrugs, with a twinkle in his one good eye, having lost the sight of the other five years ago after being repeatedly kicked by a horse that threw him as he was trying to break it in.

That happened some time after he had retired from

racing to become a BBC commentator and to run a small stud, breeding racehorses and Connemara pomies. A true countryman at heart, he feels a particular affinity with wood and craftsmanship which is why, he supposes, he is so drawn to Once A Tree.

e just loves the feel of wood, he says, running his hands over some of the intricate puzzle boxes which fit together like jigsaws and come in walnut, burr maple and

"And look at these," he adds, reaching for one of the flower vases in lignum vitae, the cream, green and brown colours of which change subtly in different lights. They make marvellous and relatively inexpensive presents."

Naturally, he takes to a £595 rocking horse, by far the most expensive item in the shop, and sportingly agrees to be pictured in the saddle. The old championship style

is still there but, as he says cheerfully: "I sometimes miss the thrills, but not the spills." Once A Tree, The Courtyard, Montpellier, Cheltenham (01242 224642). Mon-Sat 9,30am-5,30pm

BARGAINS

There are bargains to be уои виу?

THERE is a rotten tree stump in our garden. It is the only excuse I need to visit the West Midland Farmers' retail centre in Melksham, Wiltshire,

with my £100. WMF sells practical things for farmers: sheep dip, gate posts, chain saws and electric fences. There are no frills ffarmers do not waste money) and everything is built to last. It is the sheer practicality that impresses me. And the 18 different types of wellington boot, from pricey green Hunters to heavy black galoshes



with real heels and soles. Wellies are the first item on my list and I choose the Steel Shanks with rust-red soles and shiny patent uppers. Not bad for £8.95 and a perfect accompaniment to the £7.95 waterproof suit. Just the thing to wear when uprooting a tree stump. Sadly, WMF does not sell dynamite. But the £19.51 Hand Power Puller Shifts Two Tons is the next best thing. Bolt it to the wall with the 15in adjustable spanner (£9.81)

and you can shift almost anything. Having pulled out the root I need to chop it up, which is why I have spent £16.99 on a tree-felling axe with American hickory handle. Once the hole is filled in and turfed over. an old-fashioned galvanised watering can with brass rose (£10.95) is just

what is needed. Now a confession. I am an impostor in WFM, so I am going to buy a sign. Beware of Bull, for £4.30. There is still enough left over for an aluminium lamp shade and a combine harvester - for my

five-year-old son. SIMON DE BRUXELLES

MPs are urged to get on their bikes

TOP TEN CYCLING ALLOWANCES

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

MPs ARE to get pedalling, with the introduction of an allowance for using their bicycles in the course of parliamentary duties. The Top Salaries Review Body is fixing a mileage rate, and will report early next year.

The move comes more than 15 years after Norman Tebbit's celebrated injunction to . the unemployed to get "on your bike". Sadly, the allowance will be of no use to the hordes of Conservatives sacked from the Commons by

the public on May I.

The review body's involvement was announced by Ann Taylor, the Leader of the Commons. Her move followed pressure from Anne Campbell, Labour MP for Carnbridge, who disclosed that during the summer recess she was cycling 70 miles a week on constituency business.

Ms Campbell, who does not

own a car, said she was wearing out the tyres pretty quickly and suggested that 5p a mile might be a fair recom-

when in London, she walked to the Commons rather than cycling, because of the ferocious traffic. "Cycling is quicker, healthiers cheaper, does not add to traffic congestion, and does not damage the planet by causing global warm-

ing," Ms Campbell said.

There is a trend among employers to make generous reimbursement to staff who use their bicycles on company business - a result of concerns about the environment, parking problems, and the

2: Borough of Kensington and Chelsea

3: Frenchay Health Care Trust

5: The University of Brighton.

6: New Forest District Council

7: London Borough of Merton.

10: Ipswich Borough Council

8: East Hampshire District Council

9: Dovetail Management Consultancy, London

4: Bath & NE Somerset council

making higher charges for company parking spaces.

A survey by the Cyclists' Touring Club found that ten public and private bodies paid a bicycle allowance of. more than 30p a mile - equivalent to rates paid for car use. Top of the list is Southampton University Hospital. which pays a staggering 55p. The hospital has severe parking problems, and staff at all levels claim the money for cycling between its four sites

or to clinics. Ms Campbell

40p/mile

a "token" payment. The Southampton rate could buy a new bicycle every few weeks, she joked.

The University of Brighton pays cyclists 40p a mile, but the rate drops to 22.5p a mile for staff who manage to pedal more than 4,000 miles a year. BAA, which runs Heathrow airport, pays a more modest lop a mile, but also encourages staff to leave their cars at home by paying them £200 to

give up their parking permits.

These figures are well above the 6.2p a mile paid by the Post Office and the 6.4p of the Ministry of Defence,

MPs can claim 48.4p per Hard luck, Brighton students: only university staff can claim
— and even then the rate falls to 22.5p a mile for more than mile for using their own cars for parliamentary business; or 22.3p if they cover more than 20,000 miles a year. 550/mile 44p/mile

Ms Campbell said: "If you go in your car ten miles, you get paid £4.80. If you travel by rail, bus or taxi, you can claim the cost back. Go on your bike and you don't get a penny. I am very keen for cycling to be promoted. MPs using their bicycles is a good way to do this."



Anne Campbell, MP for Cambridge, outside King's College yesterday. She gets round her constituency on her bike

News at Ten time debate hots up

BY RAYMOND SNODDY MEDIA EDITOR

THE debate over the future of News at Ten is intensifying. Chris Smith, the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport, has made it clear he would prefer that the programme remains where it is in the scedules.

Richard Eyre, chief execurive of the ITV Nerwork Centre is working on a new ITV schedule to be announced in January. It is widely believed it will involve a new attempt to move the flagship

news programme. When the ITV previously tried to mave News at Ten to an earlier time, there was a huge politicial row, with letters to the ITC from the then Prime Minster, John Major, the late John Smith and the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The support of the big three ITV companies, Cariton, Granada and United News and Media, which each own 20 per cent of ITN, would be needed before Newsat Ten could be. moved, as would the permission of the Independent Television Authority.

During questions at a Media Society dinner on Thursday night, Mr Smith said the decision was ultimately one for the ITC. He personally wanted to see a spread of main news programmes throughout the evening. Meanwhile, Nicholas Winterton, chairman of the all-party backbench Media Committee has put down an early day motion calling for News at Ten

to stay where it is. As if to rub the point home, the News at Ten studio has been chosen as the venue for a Chris Smith press conference on Monday to outline the events planned by the Culture, Media and Sport Department to mark Britain's presidency of the European Union.

The visit also marks the deal signed by ITN whereby it takes a 49 per cent interest in and managerial control of Euronews, the European ca-

Girl, 16, dies after sniffing gas fuel

A CHOIRGIRL who starred in an anti-drugs community play has died in hospital after apparently sniffing gas lighter fuel. Chantelle Bleau, lo. is thought to have inhaled the gas at a friend's house.

Yesterday her parents, Richard, 38, and Pat Bleau, 42, said they had no idea she had experimented with drugs, but had learnt since her death that she had tried gas on a number of occasions recently. Her mother said: "We are a very close family and there were no symptoms or signs of what she why she did it."

Chantelle, from Bradford, West Yorkshire, regularly attended the Abundant Life Church, an independent Christian evangelical church, in the city with her parents, her brother, Kelvin, six, and five-year-old sister, Natasha. She hoped to become an infant school teacher and had recently been given a leading role in

an anti-drugs play, called Deadly Deals, which was touring schools in Bradford. John Lewis, the principal at the Dixon Community Technical College where Chantalle studied, said she was a lively and popular student whose life has been cut short well planning to sit 11 GCSEs next

An inquest was opened and adjourned yesterday.



in anti-drugs play

AFTER LAUNCHING THE AUDIO CD PHILIPS LAUNCHES THE AUDIO CD RECORDER

BBC puts its faith in 'feel-good' factor

By CAROL MIDGLEY, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE BBC is relying on the Horses trilogy won record "feel-good" factor to win the Christmas ratings war with ITV. Comedy will dominate the Christmas Day schedule," with special episodes of One Foot in the Grave, Men. Behaving Badly and They Think It's All Over running back to back on BBC1.

Humour and light entertainment form the backbone of the £42 million schedule throughout the festive season. A Carry On film will be

screened on most nights during the season. Christmas Day on BBC! will also featore The Two Ronnies. Noel Edmonds and the film The Flintsiones and Auntie's Festive Binomers. The drag artist Lily Savage, Mrs Merton, Shirley Bassey and Bette Midler are among the stars featured in programmes over the period. The special Christmas Day film is The Mask,

starring Jim Carrey. Last year's Only Fools And

BBCl controller, said yesterday: "BBCl has an irresistible line-up of comedy and entertainment." However, a Modern Times special, The Shrine, will explore the public pilgrimage to Kensington Palace after the death of Diana, Princess of Wales. Christmas drama includes

an adaptation of Wilkie Collins' Victorian ghost story The Woman In White, as well as visits to Ballykissangel and EastEnders. Madame Butterfly is BBC2's Christmas Day opera offering and the actor Simon Callow once again becomes Charles Dickens in A Christmas Dickens.

Yesterday the BBC, which traditionally triumphs in the Christmas viewing ratings, confirmed that the children's favourite Teletubbies will start 212 hours late on Christmas Day to give children the chance to open their presents.

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Young design stars are image of united Europe

The Tories thought of it, Labour approved it, but 32 children created the logo for Britain's presidency of the EU. Polly Newton reports

IT WAS hailed by Tony Blair yesterday as the latest symbol of new Labour's drive for a new Britain. But the UK's logo for its six month presidency of the European Union was commissioned under the Tories, with orders that it should reflect "modern

Newell and Sorrell, the London company that conceived the logo, began work on it last April. The original briefing came from civil servants at the Foreign Office. which was then under the stewardship of Malcolm

The logo, which will appear on EU literature published during Britain's presidency, cost £38,000 to design and produce. It was created in five hours one day in July at the

Hill, North London. Thirtytwo children aged between eight and II were invited to design 15 stars, each representing one of the countries of

For each star, a British child was paired with one from another EU member state to create a design that encapsulated their ideas of that country. Three children collaborated on Britain's star and three on the one for Luxembourg. The British children were chosen mainly from schools that had worked previously with Newell and Sorrell. The European children, most of whom were living in Britain, were found through personal contacts or

their countries' embassies. Many of the stars reflect the landscape and climate of the countries they represent. Swe-



Spirit of co-operation: Anna Stilwell of Portugal and Nathan Adamson of Britain designing the Portugese star

den has mountains, Portugal sun and the sea and Germany rivers and forests. Denmark has a Viking boat and the Little Mermaid. Oth-

culture: Austria, the birthmodern Britain, but the UK's star features the most tradi-tional British symbol of all -place of Mozart, features musical notes and Italy has a pizza, which is the favourite the Union Jack. food of both boys who created

John Simmons, a director

role as a modern and full member of the EU and also to exemplify the excellence of of Newell and Sorrell, said:

"We were given the brief that we needed to reflect Britain's

sounds like the words of new Labour but it was actually in the brief from the previous

Mr Simmons said it was that initial request which eventually inspired the idea of children working together to create a logo. Once Labour and Sorrell made more detailed plans in consultation with the new Government. Mr Blair is said to have been closely involved.

Asked whether the finished design would have been any different if the Conservatives had been returned to power. Mr Simmons replied: "It's hard to say.

The Prime Minister met the young logo artists yesterday at Downing Street shortly before their design was unveiled at a press conference at Waterloo International Station. Mr Blair, accompanied by his wife, Cherie, tried to greet each pair of children in the appropriate language. "I was trying to think of 'good

to a booklet that explains how the logo was created, Mr Blair Europe looking forward to a brighter future for everybody. That is why I want symbol for the United Kingife for r liled gri ler tellir

A MOBEN FATTE

No hiddle

dom's Presidency to represent the future. I asked children to come together to create a vibrant and youthful picture of Europe. A Foreign Office spokes-woman said that Mr Blair

and Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, had been consulted about the detail of the logo "straight away" after Labour's election victory. She said it was not surprising that the Tories had asked for a logo to reflect modern Britain. "I don't think that to come up with 'modern Britain' is that

novel, do you?" Mr Blair had taken the idea step further, however What the Prime Minister was saying today was about a modern, forward-looking Britain and involving all the people right down to the production of the logo, with

Stick within the law, Blair tells farmers

By JILL SHERMAN AND PHILIP WEBSTER

TONY BLAIR urged protesting farmers yesterday to stay within the law as lorry drivers demanded compensation from the Government for trade lost because of the blockade.

At the same time the Irish Government said that beef on the bone should be withdrawn from sale. The strongly worded advice, which stops short of a ban, was issued by republic's Health Minister, Brian Cowen, after Britain's decsision to impose a ban.

it was confirmed yesterday that the British dban will be implemented a week on Monday. Jack Cunningham, the Agriculture Minister, is trying to win Treasury backing for an emergency package of help for Britain's poorest hill farmers, who will be hardest hit.

As the beef row overshadowed the launch of Britain's logo for its presidency of the European Union. Mr Blair said he fully understood the difficulties of farmers, but blockades did not help their case. "The rule of law must be upheld and we will ensure that it is," he said.

Robin Cook, the Foreign Secretary, also delivered a strong message to the farmers. condemning their attempts to blockade the ports in protest at imports of cheap beef from Ireland. "We took a very firm line with France when there was a blockade recently of the lorries. I'm afraid we cannot apply different standards to Irish drivers now." he said.

Dr Cunningham is trying to persuade Gordon Brown, the Chancellor, and Alistair Darling. Chief Secretary to the Treaury, to raid the Government's contingency fund to help the hard-pressed beef industry. But ministers are nervous about announcing any compensation package at present because of the growing disruption at British ports.

Although ministers, particularly Dr Cunningham, believe that many of the farmers have a good case and desperately need help, the port demonstrations have provided presentational problem because they cannot be seen to be giving in to force.

After a lengthy discussion in the Cabinet on Thursday. Dr Cunningham is understood to have drawn up a plan of action to help hill farmers. particularly those on low incomes. Some are living on less than £10,000 a year and he is anxious that sparse resources are concentrated on them.

Next week there will be a period of statutory consult-



Strange, the French look jumpy

ation and an order laid before Parliament on Friday to enable the ban to be imposed.

The Prime Minister, speak-ing at the launch the logo for Britain's presidency of the EU. made clear that ministers had acted immediately on the advice of the Government's chief medical officer, Sir Kenneth Calman. "It was on his strong advice that we took the action that we did. We would be subject to equal criticism had

Earlier the European Commission warned Britain that it could face rapid legal proceedings in the European Court if it failed within five days to

Mario Monti, Commissioner for the Single Market, has demanded detailed evidence that action is being taken to ensure that meat from Ireland and the Continent is passing freely through British ports. The five days are a deadline," the commissioner's spokes-woman said. Under EU law. the Commission can seek an urgent injunction from the Luxembourg court ordering a government to repair a breach

of the law on the flow of goods. Yesterday Tony Blair set out Britain's agenda for the EU presidency, which starts next month, insisting that member states should work as a team. He emphasised that Britain would work constructively with its European partners to ensure that the single currency

was launched sucessfully. Mr Blair also dismissed recent suggestions that Britain would not be part of the "Euro-X" — the inner circle of the 10 or 11 countries that will be in the first wave to join the single currency. He said: "Let's just wait and see what will happen about that. We have made our position clear and it is understood and essentially supported by our European partners."

Simon Jenkins, page 22

Protesters deliver violence warning

AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

FARMERS warned the Government yesterday that protests against falling incomes and cheap food imports could spread and become more violent if the police took tougher action against port demonstrations.

Up to now the police and port authorities have co-operated with protesting farmers, allowing them to stop and question lorry drivers and rsuade them to turn round and return home.

Peter Rogers, a leader of the farmers in North Wales who have been picketing Holyhead to stop Irish beef imports, said: I have been trying to keep the protests within bounds, and the police have been very helpful. But I fear the mood may be changing because the police are under pressure from the Government to take a tougher line. That would make it much more difficult to con-

tain the situation." Mr Rogers, who has farmed on Anglesey for 25 years, was speaking after meeting Ron Davies, the Welsh Secretary, with other farmers' representatives. "We had a fair hearing, but made



little progress," Mr Rogers said. There was probably not much he could do. It is Jack Cunningham, the Minister of Agriculture, and Tony Blair who have got to come up with

ine help we need."
In a joint statement issued after the meeting. Mr Davies acknowledged the problems facing agriculture and the depth of trustration that was felt". He recognised farmers' legitimate right to protest, but said they must "obey the law and not impede the free movement of goods".

The only act of violence so far was at Holyhead early last Monday when farmers ambushed a lorry and tipped its

cargo of Irish beefburgers into the sea. Since then protests have spread to Fishguard and Pembroke in South Wales, to Strangaer and Cairnryan in southwest Scotland, and to Hull and

Last night farmers in the West Country found a new target, picketing the Millbay Docks at Plymouth. Anthony Gibson, regional director of the National Farmers' Union. said the aim was to put pressure on the Government to "pull their finger out."

Dover.

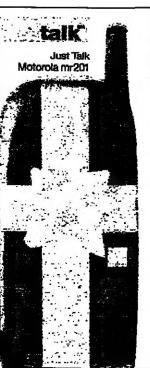
Jim Walker, a beef and sheep farmer from Dumfries and Galloway who has been involved in the Scottish pro-

tests, said: "We have had a good relationship with the police so far. We are allowed to talk to the drivers and persuade them it return some Last night seems drivers agreed to turn back Thirteen others were allowed

to continue their journeys.

The protesters have estal lished a similar arran with police elsewhere. But the Government is under grow ing pressure from to take tougher action:

Daniel Hodges, spokesman for the Road Haulage Association, said that it would seek compensation for any action that prevented drivers from



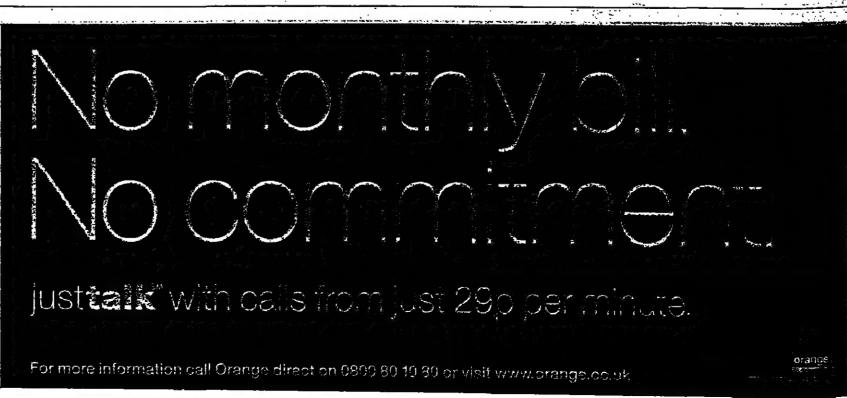
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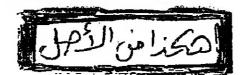
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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

Life for rapist who killed girl to stop her telling mother

A RAPE victim aged 9 was murdered after she told her attacker that she was going to tell her mother. Kayleigh Ward was trying to leave the scene of the attack in Chester when John O'Shaughnessy strangled her with his belt and threw her body into the tidal waters of the River Dee. Yesterday, O'Shaughnessy.

31, was jailed for a minimum of 30 years at Mold Crown Court. Kayleigh's mother Yvonne Ward, 37, sitting in the gallery, shouted: "I hope you

Mrs Ward, who has two other children, said after-wards: "Now that the trial is over, we can begin to think about living again. However, our lives will never be the same now that Kayleigh has gone, and with the knowledge of the terrible circumstances

surrounding her death."

O'Shaughnessy, an unemployed drifter, spoke only to plead guilty. Mr Justice Mau-rice Kay said: "There is no crime more horrific than the murder of a child. You used her, aged 9, and a lime over 4 ft tall, for your sexual gratification. You determined to kill her because you knew that if she had lived you would have faced prosecution for rape. So you strangled her and threw her into the river in the most

inhuman way. said to him, 'I'll tell my mum.
'It is difficult to imagine I'll tell my mum. I'll tell Beth



Kayleigh Ward: body

anything more depraved, cruel or cowardly.

The Ward family and O'Shaughnessy, an unem-ployed drifter, lived at the same council-run halfway house for the homeless in Lorne Street, Chester. Kayleigh went missing six days before Christmas last year. The court heard that she had met O'Shaughnessy in a latenight supermarket after returning from her school's Christmas disco. O'Shaugh-nessy persuaded her to take the riverbank path with him on the way to a chip shop. Once they had reached a remote spot, he ordered her to remove her shoes and tights and raped her:

John Rogers, for the prose-cution, said: "At this point, she

[her older sister]." She dressed and turned to walk back up the steps from the riverbank when O'Shaughnessy pulled off his belt and strangled her. When the belt broke, he made sure she was dead by using her tights. He carried her body to the river's edge and threw her into the tidal waters, hoping that she would be carried into the Irish Sea. Asked later by police why he killed her, he replied: "She was bound to have told people. t was the easiest way out."

Mr Rogers said that O'Shaughnessy was interriewed as a matter of routine, and again when he changed his alibi. Four days later, he took an overdose and was hospitalised. He confessed shortly after the body was

O'Shaughnessy was given a concurrent life term for rape. Alex Carlile, QC. for the defence, said that he was a depressive with minor previous convictions. He had led an unstable life with an insecure childhood, like Kayleigh's.

Mr Carlile suggested that the decision by a depressive to rape and murder Kayleigh amounted effectively to sui-cide, and that he should be given credit for making a full confession and pleading guilty. He said: "Although the rape and murder were acts of the most terrible cruelty and



O'Shaughnessy: his crime was depraved, cruel and cowardly, said the judge

Streetwise tomboy who walked into danger



evicted from estate

IT WAS last Christmas's bleakest story: a heart-wrenching public appeal for a vanished, streetwise child. In the season of goodwill, police attempted to entice Kayleigh Ward back home with a promise of a CD player from Santa, a lavish gift in an impoverished

family. Kayleigh was an impish tomboy with a jagged fringe, cut by her sister. Classmates nicknamed her Oddhod. She knew her way around the streets. liked to talk to tramps, and it was with Gypsies or jumped on a ferry to Ireland. But she was dead even as Cheshire police launched one of its sightings around the country, searching waste ground and trawling canals. Two months later, her partially clothed body was thrown up by an unusually high tide.

Kayleigh sometimes played truant from Blacon Hall Junior School. She liked to visit sports centres and shopping parades and could be disruptive. Although far from a star pupil, she is remembered with affection by teachers who dwell on her tombovish charm.

years ago. Mrs Ward, 37, had brought up her three children on the deprived Blacon estate. In October last year. largest hunts, pursuing 350 reported Mrs Ward was evicted from her

council house for non-payment of rent. and resettled in two rooms in a council halfway house. It was a hugely disorientating experience for Kayleigh, whose truancy shot up. It also placed her in the path of her killer, another resident of the hostel.

In the days after Kayleigh's disaparance, Mrs Ward railed against eviction as "heartless". The council's housing chiefs suggested gently that Mrs Ward failed to sort out her affairs despite multiple county

Kayleigh knew her killer well. She thought of him as a friend and, says her mother, would have "gone off with him quite innocently". Mrs Ward said: "I was living under the same roof as the man who murdered my daughter. He pretended to show concern for me. I made him tea and, when he was short of money. I gave him food out of the cupboard. I even gave him money two days before Kayleigh was found."

It was O'Shaughnessy, she said, who told police that three Gypsies had knocked at the hostel door looking for Kayleigh "but it was him putting the police off the track".

She described her daughter as a was never spiteful and always generous. If one person was sitting in the

Killer stopped from suing health chiefs

By MARK HENDERSON

CHRISTOPHER CLUNIS, who stabbed Jonathan Zito to death at a London Underground station in December 1992, was stopped yesterday by the Court of Appeal from suing the health authority that had treated him.

Jayne Zito, the victim's widow, afterwards withdrew her action against Clunis for assault and trespass, which was conditional on his winning damages. She has no legal right to sue the

The appeal ruling means that health authorities cannot be held liable for mentally ill patients not sectioned under the Mental Health Act if they commit violent crimes as outpatients. Clunis was told that Camden and Islington Health Authority bore no duty of care towards him after his release from hospital in September 1992 and could not be held responsible for his actions.

The decision overturned a High Court ruling that allowed Clunis to sue. He was refused leave to appeal to the House of Lords, although his lawyers intend to petition the law lords to have an appeal heard.

Clunis stabbed Mr Zito, 27. in the eye at a station in North London. Mrs Zito. who does not blame Clumis for her husband's death and regards him as a victim, said she was disgusted by the appeal decision.

I could understand if it was on the ground that he should not benefit from killing Jonathan, but not on the basis that the authority had no duty of care." she said.

That somebody like him could walk into the street with a knife, while highly vulnerable and dangerous, and kill someone, and yet nobody has a duty of care well, they might as well have put the knife in his hand themselves.

The ruling effectively absolved health authorities from the duty to provide proper care for the mentally carte blanche to psychiatrists to discharge people

when something goes terribly, terribly wrong, there is no redress. Mrs Zito, who had been

married for three months, is the founder of the Zito Trust. which campaigns on mental health issues. She said that since her

husband's death, more than 100 killings had been committed by people who had had contact with psychiatric

Clunis had claimed redress for "injury, loss and use of a Camden and Islington doctor to have him sectioned after his release from Guy's Hospital. He believes that he would not admitted to hospital, and



Jayne Zito: forced to drop her own action

that he is unlikely to be released from Rampton spedal hospital. Nottinghamshire, where he was detained manslaughter on the ground of diminished responsibility.

Lord Justice Beldam, sitting with Lord Justice Potter and Mrs Justice Bracewell. held that it would not be just and reasonable to impose a common-law duty of care on an authority in relation to its duty to provide aftercare. Nor would it be reasonable to hold the authority liable to Clunis for the consequences of his criminal act.

Camden and Islington Health Authority said it financially from the killing



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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

'I feel more

Women fight to stop ban on PMT vitamin

100,000 protest letters sent to MPs over proposed ban on the sale of vitamin B6, writes Dominic Kennedy

campaign has been launched by thousands of women who take the vitamin B6 after the Government an-nounced plans to ban the supplement from sale.

An estimated 100,000 letters have been sent to MPs by those championing the free dom to buy the supplement from health food shops. The vitamin, taken to relieve pre-menstrual tension or by those on hormone replacement therapy, costs about £2 for a jar of

50 pills.
The Food Salety Minister,
Jeff Rooker, provoked an outcry in July when he proposed outlawing the sale of anything but the weakest doses of B6. Pills containing 50mg or more of the vitamin will require a doctor's prescription.

Already British women are buying in bulk on the Continent because many pharmacists have voluntarily cleared their shelves of the pills. The MPs Teresa Gorman, who has been taking vitamin B6 for 20 years, and Ann Winterion are leading the campaign in Parliament to persuade Mr Rooker to change his mind.

The row has thrown the spotlight back onto Katharina Dalton, who invented the term PMT 40 years ago and has since helped women to defeat charges, including murder and arson, in court. Her study in 1987 blaming vitamin B6 for nerve problems in patients is the main medical evidence cited by Mr Rooker to justify the ban, which threatens the future of many health food stores. The only other key piece of scientific research is a study of the effects of large doses of the vitamin on

The campaign for freedom to buy the pills has been toordinated by the makers and sellers of PMT health supplements, an industry worth an estimated £87 million a year.



Dr Dalton, who coined the phrase PMT 40 years ago



Rooker: to ban vitamin

Vitamin B6, also known as pyridoxine, occurs naturally in grains, potatoes, milk, meat and beer. The average diet easily exceeds the required daily dose, and deficiency is rare. Since the 1930s it has been recommended as a diuretic. Women who have problems with water retention, which can cause discomfort in the abdomen or breasts, have long hailed the vitamin as their saviour. Such symptoms are commonly experienced by PMT sufferers or middle-soed women on hormone replace-

in 1987 Or Dalton, who has private clinic in London, wrote a study on the effects of vitamin B6 overdose. A 49-



year-old woman who had taken 75mg of the vitamin daily, along with zinc, magnesium and multivitamins for two years, complained of sensations such as ants biting her legs, electric shock pains in her head and numb fingertips.

Some women suffered such

bone pain and muscle weakness that they feared that they had multiple sclerosis. Two sought professional advice after losing their sex drive. Dr Dalton's study earned a prize from the Royal Free Hospital School of Medicine but gathered dust until the Consumers' Association, publishers of Which?, urged the Government to review the safety of

vitamin supplements. The Committee on Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, made up of experts appointed by the Chief Medical Officer, calculated that the lowest safe dose of vitamin B in humans was 50mg a day. Leaving a margin of safety, and considering that a study 23 years ago had shown an adverse effect on dogs fed the vitamin, the .committee recommended maximum dailý intake of

Health food shops now claim they face min. Vitamin B6 is one of the commonest. products on their shelves,



often sold in mixtures with other vitamins. A typical pill contains 50mg or 100mg for a daily dose. Mr Rooker, in one of his first acts as minister, proposed outlawing the sale of doses stronger than 10mg except through pharmacies.

The campaign to change the minister's mind has been led by a pressure group called Consumers for Health Choice, which is backed by manufacturers, retailers and individuals. They have spent £80,000 on public relations, a telephone hotline and printing letters to MPs, which are distributed to health food

Morecambe Health Food Centre alone has found 400

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customers willing to sign the letters. Solgar Vitamins has questioned the independence of the Committee on Toxicity, complaining that some members are shareholders, consultants or employees of pharmaceutical companies. The idea is that drugs firms would benefit if alternative

remedies were banned. There are close family connections on both sides. Sarah Winterton, the daughter of Ann Winterton, whose early motion has been signed by 160 MPs, is the administrator of Consumers for Health Choice. Dr Dalton's daughter runs PMS Help, which Mr Rooker has gratefully cited as

a supporter of the Govern-

offers an expensive rival PMT therapy involving progesterone from her private clinic. Dr Dalton retorts that she makes no profit and only charges nstead of shrinking from a fight, Dr Dalton has

time. Dr Dalton is facing

severe criticism. Some say she

weighed in with a new, charge against vitamin B6: that it may be linked to birth deformities, known as phoco-

She told a meeting in the House of Lords that in 1985 the State University of New York had reported, in The Lancet, a

energetic and more balanced'

▼ arolyn Larter began taking Vitamin ▼ B6 after asking her health food store to recommend a remedy for stress. She has been taking the 100mg pills for 18 months with no adverse

"I had been finding that very little things were irritating me," Mrs Larter, 29, of Godalming, Surrey, said. "I would get cross about stupid things that went wrong at work. I would be in a bad mood for hours afterwards when it should have just passed. The pills, which contain a B complex of several vitamins, made a difference within a week. If large doses are outlawed, Mrs Larter fears that some doctors will be reluctant to prescribe B6 because GPs rely more on drugs. "If you go to the doctor and say you are feeling rather grumpy, he is more likely to suggest

Mrs Larter, a firm believer in complementary remedies, spends £30 a month on natural treatments including vitamin C and E. calcium. magnesium, chromium, zinc and folic acid. She has found a job as an office administrator for an alternative therapy business. "I feet a lot more energetic, a lot more balanced, and I have got more vitality. My friends that I don't see so often have noticed the difference and say how well I look. They say that I glow."

ban something without consulting with women who use this treatment or with the gynaecology profession, most of whom recommend it?"

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B6 has been recommended for conditions including asthma, heart disease, and depres sion. But it is mostly used in the treatment of pre-menstrual tension, to control acre and



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EXAMINES

who had taken large doses of

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Dalton claims to have anec-

dotal evidence of six possible

cases and knows colleagues in

Mrs Gorman began taking

100mg pills of vitamin B6 in

the 1970s on her doctor's

advice. She stocked up on the

supplement during her sum-

mer visit to Portugal, knowing

that a British ban was immi-

nent. She complains of having

to waste her GP's time getting

green behind the ears. Why

would they suddenly come across a ten-year-old study

and decide on its evidence to

She said: "The minister is

a similar position.

a prescription.

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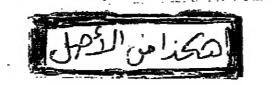
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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

Iranian fans herald popular revolution

Football poses a new threat to the

might of the mullahs, writes

Michael Theodoulou from Tehran

6 It is a

reminder to

the old guard

that people

want a more

open Iran 🤊

REZA, a young Iranian student relaxing with friends at a café in snow-covered mountains north of Tehran, threw his LA Lakers baseball cap into the air and whistled with delight. "So we have got America in the first round? Great, I hope we beat them, but as you English say, may the best team win."

News was just coming in of Thursday night's draw for next year's World Cup finals that puts Iran in the same group as the country Iranians are officially encouraged to despise most. There could have been few better ways to prolong the football fever that has gripped Iran since the national's team eleventh-hour qualification last Saturday. "Down with America," Shi-

va, a young woman in Reza's group who was wearing turquoise-tinted contact lenses, said mockingly. Shah was forced into exile -18 years ago were such jubilation

on the streets of Tehran as when Iran beat Australia on the away-goals rule to clinch a place in the finals in France. Millions of men and women, who are meant to be segregated, brought traffic to a half in the city's thoroughfares as they danced until the early hours. Some women, ignoring the strict dress code, jettisoned their headscarves to the dismay of police, apparently powerless to intervene.

One paper reported that 15 people suffered fatal heart attacks while the match was being played in Melbourne. Pictures of the scorers, Khordad Azizi and Karim Bagheri, now festoon Tehran's taxis and are plastered on the bedrooms walls of millions of Iranian boys.

The moderate press was delighted at the display of national unity on the streets and compared the "explosion of happiness" to the euphoria presidential election victory of Muhammad Khatami, who

person on Thursday. He was swept to power with 70 per cent of the vote by a broad front of young people, women and intellectuals attracted by his message of open-minded tolerance.

Indeed, many political analysts here doubt such celebrations could have taken place without the more liberal social climate created by Mr Khatam's victory.

"The celebrations were a show of people's power." said Ibrahim Yazdi, who heads a small, tolerated opposition party. "It marked a social and political development in Iran." A European diplomat

agreed: "It is a sign that civic society has become more confident, and a reminder to the old guard that people want iran to be more open to the out-

side world." There was no indication that settle old scores on the football pitches France. "The meaning FIFA [football's

world governing body] is peace and unity." said Darius Mustafavi, president of the Iranian football federation. "We are thinking only of soccer, not politics. We are friends of the people of the ☐ Washington: The game in

Lyons on June 21 will be watched with as much fervour by the US State Department and the Iranian Foreign Ministry as it will by enthusiastic fans (Tom Rhodes writes). Alan Rothenberg, president

of the US football federation. said the only way the match could be given greater resonance would be the appointment of an Iraqi referee. "We're going to try not to let

the political ramifications influence our preparation. I hope we can use this game to bring the two countries closer together. Maybe we can have soccer diplomacy, like we had pingpong diplomacy in

Leading article, page 23



Honoured heroes defy Khomeini's curse

long way since Ayatollah Khomeini denounced and disbanded the national league as "an addictive product of the West" two decades ago. No team has scored more goals in qualifying for this World Cup or played to bigger crowds than the 128,000 at Tehran's Azadi

The chants have grown like a new storm in the East though, as any Scotsman will tell you, Iran has been to a World Cup before, In 1978 in Argenting, Scotland drew I-I with the then underdogs from Since Iran's underdogs drew with Scotland in 1978, only the blind or foolish dismiss their football, writes Rob Hughes

ground in a sport where the gap between developed and emerging states is shrinking. One date from the 1998 World Cup stands out -Sunday. June 21, in Lyons where Iran meet the USA. From a security and a sporting aspect, it will be unprece-Americans their country if the Islamic country had qualified for the with the thought that this represents the best chance either team has of a victory. They are drawn in Group F with Germany, the perennial achievers, and Yugoslavia, who have picked up where they left off as the "European Brazilians" of soccer.

Indeed, Iran seemed sense immediately they qualified, that they were destined to meet America, "We are not going to war with any coun-

Mostafavi, president of Iran's Football Association. "We would be happy to play the USA. We are not enemies with the people there ... football can show what the revolution stands for: peace

and friendship." Americans, too, have a precedent of putting aside differences in the name of sport. Forty years ago Mike Agassi was an Olympic boxer for Iran; nowadays his son Andre, born and bred in Las Vegas, is an all-American tennis player.

And today, like most other winning and losing at socrer crosses the boundaries of class, culture or creed, Iran

has a hired foreign coach, and benefits from its star players expressing themselves in Europe's wealthy leagues. I am the happiest man in

the world to help Iran qualify." said Valdeir Vicira, who journeyed from Brazil to guide Iran through just one month ago. "I know what this means to the 70 million people here. They needed this pride more than they need food or drink because, apart from their culture and their religion, they have nothing

You might make an exception of Khodadad Azizi, the because he has the wealth and satisfaction of playing for FC Cologne in the German

Bundesliga, Similarly, Karim Bagheri and Ali Daei, two outstanding goal-scorers, who are professionals with Ger-

many's Arminia Bielefeld. "Iran is the place to buy for value for money," insists Rüdiger Lamm, the Bielefeld general manager. "These forwards are such good talents. its hard to understand why they are not one of the top national teams."

The Iranians have a new coach, the Brazilian Vicira. This country has been closed for 20 years, that is why they love football so much." he said. "I know it because I neonle have killed themselves if the team did not get the





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Campaigning actor plays off Broadway

bringing the same gusto to his nascent political career as he does to the screen.

The star of The Hunt for Red October and Glengarn Glen Ross went on the road last week to lobby for campaign

finance reform, rally for breast cancer research and denounce a leaking nuclear reactor near his home in the Hamptons on eastern In political terms, he is still

playing off Broadway, but it may not be long before we see his name in lights. Mr Baldwin, a trendy leftie who heads the group of Hollywood politicos known as the Creative Coalition, revealed recently that he coveted the job of Governor of New York and might prepare himself with a run for the

"Mother said he'd be President," his sister revealed. As Mr Baldwin prepared to foray forth on board a rented campaign bus, his handlers

JAMES BONE'S **NEW YORK**

pestered three separate reporters from The New Republic political weekly to pitch the story. It was worth the effort: they eventually scored the cover article.

Unlike his Hollywood confrères, Mr Baldwin does not just talk about Bosnia and Tibet and the rainforests. He positively relishes the nitty-gritty. The heartthrob told an earnest audience of ladies at a midtown Manhattan YWCA: "We are now positioned to have a truly great and well-examined and meaningful campaign finance

charged and acquitted two years ago for punching a paparazzo who tried to get a shot of his wife. Kim

newborn child. Mr Baldwin continues to be fiercely protec-tive. When The New York Times made a snide reference to the blonde bombshell "behaving temperamentally" on the set of her new

movie. Marrying Man, he fired off a furious letter to the reporter. Bernard Weinraub. The newspaper declined to publish it, but somehow it made its way into the public domain.

"Why don't you do yourself, The New York Times, and everybody else in this business a favour: either become a better, braver, more ethical writer or quit your [expletive deleted] job and go work for a studio, since that is basically what you are doing right now." Mr Baldwin's protest ran.

THE social event of next week is undoubtedly the Versace gala at the Metropolitan Museum of Art.



Financing reform is top of the agenda as Alec Baldwin goes canvassing in Massachusetts

Word is that Madonna will give a private performance amid the Egyptian Temples. There has been a kerfuffle, however, over whether to issue an invitation to Shane Perdue, who plays the fashion designer's killer in an upcoming

film. He appears not to have made it. The fear was that guests would be discomfited by an Andrew Cunanan-lookalike.

A TEACHER tells me that schoolchildren have begun wearing

badges, baseball caps and even T-shirts emblazoned with the legend "4:20". This is apparently the time after classes finish for the day that kids gather to get high on marijua-na. It is known as "National Get-

Making a meal of crime

MY PROSPEROUS friends in the commuter town of Greenwich, Connecticut, are living in fear of the socalled "dinnertime bandits". Burglars normally choose an hour when the occupants are likely to be out of the house. Statistically, Wednesday afternoon is the most popular time. Some audacious thieves raid houses during dinner parties, however, entering the first floor while

robbed while entertaining 30 guests. Just like To Catch A Thief.

The latest home improvement - "safe rooms" - is of dubious benefit against such sociable thieves. Security-conscious Americans are building hidden bunkers inside their homes. Wealthy homeowners appar-

with the cheapest selling for \$299 (£180). A concerned father on Long Island installed one last Sunday after a neighbour warned him that his "Dial-a-Maid" babysiner had been screaming at his two-year-old daugh-

Rush for

cameras

to spy on

nannies

THE hottest item in New

York shops is the "Nanny;

cam. These spy cameras have been flying off the

shelves since Louise

Woodward was convicted of

killing the baby in her care. One store offers 47 varieties.

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ter in the playground. Four days later Maria Darrosa, 28, was arrested after being caught on tape sexually abusing the toddler.

An acquaintance who hired two Swedish au pairs from the same agency that imported Miss Woodward reports that both she and her live in help have been receiving reg-ular letters from E. F. Au

Carey Bloom, of Princeton, says the letters plead the British nanny's case. The latest came after her conviction, and again protested her

"It's scarv when it's the same agency you used your-self. It hits home a little more," the mother of two says. "They had to send us something.

Like many mothers in America, Mrs Bloom recently gave up her job at a hospital to spend all her time with her

Yearning for bad old days THE "Crossroads of the World" is explain why an increasing number of getting over-populated. As Disney Manhattanites feel nostalgic for the and Madame Tussaud's replace the old red-light district. grimy porn cinemas of Times Square, right, the junction of Broadway and Somebody has come up with a way to stop New York's cabbies 42nd Street is being flooded by tourists. A study says that at peak periods 7,000 people pass a given from speeding: fix the meter so that it cuts out above the 30mph limit. Customers in a hurry could still agree point every hour. New Yorkers walk 30 per cent faster than out-of-towners. a price in advance and let the driver so there are lots of opportunity for rush to the destination with the meter switched off — as long as they are willing to pay the fine. typical New York hospitality ("Yo! Ged-oud-a-da-way"). The crush may

ently fear being held hostage by robbers or being killed. Some keep a refrigerator fully stocked inside and nomes have been hit. One family was White student in US sues on 'race bias' admissions FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

A WHITE woman is suing the University of Michigan In a case fast becoming the lightning rod in a conservative battle to rid American colleges of race-based admissions.

Jennifer Gratz, vice-president of the student council, a cheerleader and homecoming queen at her high school in Detroit, was viewed as a natural candidate when she applied two years ago to the university's most famous campus at Ann Arbor, Michigan. She had earned a 3.9 average score in examinations in which the top grade was four, ind was a model student.

But her application was declined and Miss Gratz, 20, is suing the state's most prestigious university claiming she was rejected in favour of black, Hispanic and American Indian applicants with lower grades and test scores. She wants the courts to declare that the university's policy is unconstitutional.

"I feel I was racially discriminated against," said Miss Gratz, who is now studying mathematics at the neighbouring Michigan campus of Dearborn. "I believe I deserved an equal chance but didn't get it. I'm not suing for admission, I'm suing so the policy will be changed.

America's biggest public universities, in Texas and California, have been forced to stop employing affirmative action programmes. Conservative opponents of affirmative action hope the Gratz case may persuade the thousands of other US colleges to follow suit. They describe the lawsuit as the best chance to overturn a 1978 ruling by the US Supreme Court which allowed universities to consider race as

a factor in choosing students. Miss Gratz is being represented by the Centre for Individual Rights, a Washington firm that became the legal

force behind California's Proposition 209, the initiative which banned the use of racial preferences in the state.

At the heart of the suit is what conservatives call a smoking gun, a chart used by the university's admissions office to decide who qualifies for entrance and who does not. In the last two years, two of , The document shows that white candidates are often rejected or deferred while minorities with identical exam results are admitted.

The university, accepting the existence of such a chart, said that race was only one of the factors used in selection. Officials have hired a top Washington law firm to de fend the university.

Patrick Hamscher, another prospective candidate for Michigan, has also joined the suit. At the age of 18 and also white, he was rejected by the university last year when his application had seemed a foregone conclusion. . .

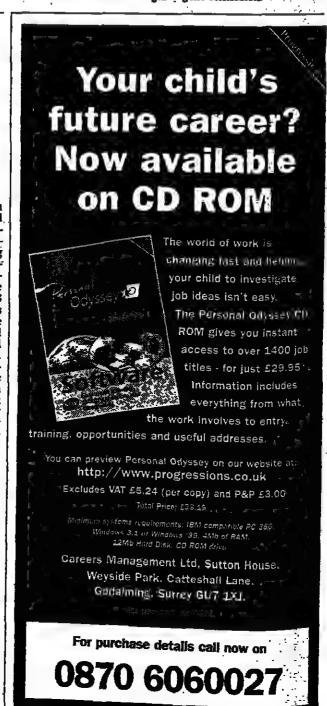
Call for warning on petrol. adverts FROM NICE NUTTALL

CIGARETTE-style health warnings should be attached to petrol and diesel advertisements to reflect oil's environmental damage, a leading British pensions and insurance company urged yester-day. NPI Global Care Investment, with assets of \$18 billion, said the warnings were needed to alert the public to the threat of global warming, from burning fossil fuels in cars to home heating. Tessa Tennant of the com-

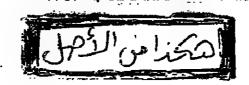
pany told the Kyoto Climate Change Conference: "This is a precautionary measure which all governments can readily She said the warnings should, like tobacco ads, advise people about the direct health risks of breathing in fumes like carbon monoxide, soot particles and organic compounds like benzene.

But Ms Tennant said the warnings also needed to un-derscore the links between petrol and diesel and climate change with its risks of sea level rise, famine, spread of diseases and water shortages worldwide. She added:"An informed public is essential to the success of action plans to reduce man-made emissions."

The company's move came as 71 insurance and reinsurance firms launched a scheme. to curb global warming under the United Nations environment programmes insurance initiative. It came with a warning that some big petrol corporations needed to mend their ways or face becoming corporate dinosaurs.







THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

French jails to build rooms for sex visits

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

The escapist point of view of Le Monde's cartoonist

LOVE will bloom in French prisons under a new plan to build mini-apartments within penitentiaries where longterm prisoners will be allowed to have conjugal visits for the first time

As in Britain, sexual rela-tions are currently forbidden in French prisons, but under the outline project soon to be presented to the Justice Ministry by the prison service, so-called "family visiting spaces" will be set aside "to give longterm detainees the opportunity for family intimacy.

These private areas will "allow people incarcerated for a certain time to enjoy every aspect of family life, from preparing a meal to sleeping together to amorous relations", the Prisons Administration said in a report.

The secure, set-aside rooms will not be directly supervised by prison officers, and while sex will be permitted the report emphasised that "the principal intention is to maintain pre-existing family links. with the aim of returning prisoners to society".

The families of prisoners will be allowed to stay in the

units for up to 72 hours. The issue of conjugal visits in French prisons has been debated for more than a decade. A similar plan was considered in 1985 under Robert Badinter, the former Justice Minister, but was abandoned after objections from "The immense majority of

officers are now in favour of setting up sex rooms, since the current situation is untenable," the Prisons Administration said in its report.

A recent survey found that,

although sex is officially forbidden between prisoners and their partners, some 35 per cent of former detainees said they had had sex with their wives or girlfriends during visiting hours, with or without the connivance of the guards, and 2.5 per cent claimed to have conceived a child while in detention.

The survey concluded that the official attitude towards between prisoners and their visitors varied widely between prisons, with some prison governors and officers "turning a blind eye" while others insisted on a rigorous application of the no-sex rule. Last May the French section of the International Prisons Observatory launched a peti-

> granted the right to privacy. Under the new plan the mini-apartments would consist of two small rooms, one for adults and another for children, alongside a kitchen eating area. Each apartment would be equipped with an intercom system to summon

staff if necessary. Visitors will be closely vetted and the new family units will be accompanied by stringent new security measures, according to the Prisons Administration. Each prisoner would be searched on entering and leaving the apartment, and visitors would also be subject to careful security checks on arrival at the prison.

If the project gets the goahead from Elisabeth Guigou. the Justice Minister, the first such units would be opened next year, and the prison service estimates that up to 15,000 long-term prisoners could benefit from the scheme.



An Israeli soldier points his gun at a Palestinian journalist during demonstrations yesterday over a disputed plot of land at Rafah in the Gaza Strip. Israeli soldiers wounded five Palestinians, including a cameraman

Israel wants peace accord 'corrections'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN PADUEL. OCCUPIED WEST BANK

A LEADING member of the Israeli Cabinet called yesterday for "adjustments and corrections" to the 1993 Oslo peace accord with the Palestinians and said that Israel would never relinquish

security zones 30km (19 miles) wide on either side of the West Bank. Ariel Sharon, one of four members of

the "kitchen Cabinet" appointed by Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, to determine Israel's position on its troop withdrawals, for the first time outlined the country's blueprint for any final settlement with the Palestinians.

Speaking in this Jewish settlement, he insisted that the newly designated security zones "were red lines, not pink", which Israel would never cross in final negotiations due to be completed by May 1999. He added that Israel would

immediately annex the two proposed security zones, one 10km wide running east of the Green Line dividing Israel from the West Bank, and the other 20km wide along the Jordan Valley, if Yassir Arafat went ahead as threatened and unilaterally declared a Palestinian state.

Asked if he were not calling for the renegotiation of the peace treaty, he said with a twinkle in his eye: "I would not use exactly that term ... but some corrections and adjustments must be made."

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Yeltsin plea wins budget approval

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT Yeltsin yesterday made a dramatic intervention on the floor of the opposition-dominated parliament, when he successfully to pass this year's budget and avert an economic crisis (Richard Beeston writes).

For only the second time since he came to power, the Russian leader made a surprise visit to the Duma, the lower house, giving a warning to members that the country and the world were waiting for their approval of next year's delayed budget.

I ask you not to drag your feet but to vote for the budget at once," he said. "You are officials of a big world power which is introducing democracy, learning to live according to democratic principles."

Although Duma members normally spend most of their days attacking Mr Yeltsin, this time they applauded him obediently and within minutes Communists, democrats and nationalists alike passed the first reading of the budget by 231 votes to 136. "I am satisfied." President Yeltsin said

Princess to visit 'site of torture'

By Gabriella Gamini SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

HUMAN rights activists in Paraguay last night expressed outrage at organisers who planned a visit by the Princess on a farm which was allegedly used as a torture centre during the dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner's

between 1954 and 1989. The Princess Royal, who is unaware that the haclenda where she is due to inspect a eucalyptus reforestation prohoused a notorious torture camp, arrived in Paraguay yesterday after a visit to Peru

and Colombia. She was scheduled to visit the 2.500-acre Tapta farm on which a local unit of the Royal Dutch Shell group has a reforestation project, within hours of her arrival in Asunción, the capital.

Francisco José de Vagas, a leading congressman, said: 'It is outrageous that they are taking the British princess on a tour of a place which most people in Paraguay know was used by the military to torture and execute political opponents."

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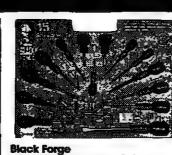






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applied under Section 36 of the Electricity Act (1989) for the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry's consent to construct and operate a CHP plant at the Sappi Europe Blackburn Mill at Feniscowles, Lancashire, and for a direction under Schedule 8 of the Act stating that planning permission for the generating station be deemed to be granted. The proposed generating station, to be known as Blackburn Mill CHP Plant, will have a total nominal

A copy of the application; a plan showing the land to which it relates; an accompanying Environmental Review document and supporting information are available for inspection by members of the public at the following locations during normal office hours: Planning Department, Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council

Planning Department, Chorley Borough Council Planning Department, Lancashire County Council Copies of the Environmental Review and Non Technical Summary may also be inspected at ScottishPower's offices at: ScottishPower, 75 Waterloo Street, Glasgow G2 7BD.

Copies of the Environmental Review (£50 per copy) and Non Technical Summary (free, whilst available) can be obtained from the Environment & Planning Section, ScottishPower Technology, 45 Hawbank Road, College Mitton North, East Kılbride, Glasgow

Objections to the application should be made in writing to the President of the Board of Trade, Department of Trade and Industry, Electricity Directorate, I.D. 20, 1 Victoria Street, London SW10 DET stating the name of the station and the grounds for objection before 31st December 1997 (28 days after submission). It is

requested that a copy of any objection be pasted to the Environment and Planning Section at the above address.

sappi europe



POINTS AT B&Q

OPENING HOURS

FROM JAN RAATH

Mugabe

THE Rev Ndabaningi Sithole, the man credited with starting the war that ended white minority rule in Rhodesia, was yesterday found guilty of treason. The 77-yearold opposition leader faces a

life jail sentence.
Judge Esmael Chatikobo
convicted Sithole, leader of Zanu (Ndonga), the only opposition party in Zimbabwe's parliament, of plotting to kill President Mugabe by bombing his motorcade in August 1995. Sithole was also found guilty of helping to organise a guerrilla force in Mozambique that was to fight to overthrow Mr Mugabe's Government. The court also found he procured and kept weapons of war.

The judge accepted secret videotapes of a military cooperation agreement signed in 1986 in New York between Zanu (Ndonga) and Renamo. the former South Africanbacked guerrilla movement that is now Mozambique's

main opposition party.
The former Congregational minister was in the same dock where he sat 29 years ago when a Rhodesian judge jailed him for six years for conspiring to kill Ian Smith. who was then the Rhodesian Prime Minister.

Judge Chatikobo said he would pass sentence later. while Sithole's lawyers indicated they would appeal against the judgement.

Party chief guilty of ANC women to withdraw poll backing for Winnie

FROM SAM KILEY IN JOHANNESBURG

THE political ambitions of Winnie Madikizela-Mandela face a big set-back this weekend when the African National Congress Women's League is expected to withdraw its support for her candidacy in elections this month for the party's deputy presidency.

After eight days of harrowing details about a "reign of terror" waged by Mrs Mandela, mainly against young men and women in Soweto during the late 1980s. Women's League sources said yesterday that they now expected to nominate Jacob Zuma for the post.

Mrs Mandela has also lost the backing of ANC members in the Eastern Cape, the party's most radical area. They have dropped her from their list of nominees in favour of Mr Zuma, the uncharismatic party chair-man from KwaZulu/Natal, who now has the backing of all nine provinces. His candidature is also supported by senior members of the party who are anxious to improve the showing of Zulus in the leadership before peace talks with the Zulu-dominated Inkatha Freedom Party of Chief Mangosuthu

Buthelezi expected early next year. Some of Mrs Mandela's supporters chanted songs outside the Truth and Reconciliation Committee hearings this week while accusations of murder and torture were being made against her inside. Others threatened the

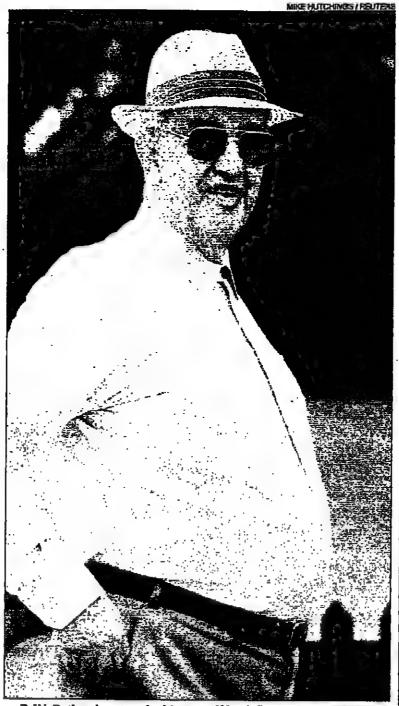
mother of one of her alleged victims. Analysts said Mrs Mandela was by no means finished. She retains a following among rank-and-file members who have rallied to her campaign to reinstate the death penalty and her criticism of the ANC for failing to live up to its election promises.

But their voices may be drowned by the party's top brass. Cheryl Carolus, the acting Secretary-General, has condenined her attacks on the ANC as cowardly. Although Mrs Mandela is president of the Women's League, sources said that members had been shocked by what came out of the hearings", during which she was implicated in at least six murders. Mrs Mandela still inspires an al-

most supernatural sense of fear. None of the ANC Women's League sources would allow their names to be used. At the end of the hearings, a vague and reluctant apology for her reign of terror was dragged from Mrs Mandela by a tearful Archbishop Desmond Tutu, the commission chair-man, although she refused to acknowledge any responsibility.

Archbishop Tutu said yesterday: "I think it would be unfortunate if we were to be dismissive .fs2. . Let us not snuff out a flickering wick."

Leading article, page 23



P. W. Botha: threatened with arrest if he defies truth commission

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reprieve

for Botha

Johannesburg: P. W. Botha, the former South African

President, yesterday narrowly escaped being charged with

failing to appear before the Truth and Reconciliation Commission because of a

blunder by its lawyers (Sam Kiley writes).
Commissioners, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, marched to the Cape Town

Attorney-General's offices to lay a charge against "the Great Crocodile", only to be

told that as the subpoena summoning Mr Botha, \$1, did not specify a time. It was

invalid. A second, correct,

version of the document was

taken to George, Mr Botha's

retirement home, where he

will be ordered to attend

hearings on December 19.

The legal fiasco will slow down the hearings. Frank Khan, the Western

Cape Attorney-General, is-

sued a warning that he would not hesitate to issue a warrant

if Mr Botha ignored the third

WORLD IN BRIEF

Britain lifts jobs ban on islanders

London: Bowing to pressure from Britain's most remote possession, the British Government announced yesterday that it will allow up to 30 islanders from St Helena to take full-time paid jobs in this country (Michael Binyon writes). Five people from Tristan da Cunha, the lonely volcanic island inhabited by no more than 300 people, will also be allowed to seek employment here.

Tony Lloyd, the Foreign Office minister, made the announcement at a business forum intended to bolster investment in St Helena. The new quota, although low, lifts the ban on residents of the South Atlantic dependent territory working in Britain, which followed the removal of their British citizenship in 1981.

Volcano diverts planes

Moscow: A Russian volcano situated on the Pacific Rim's Moscow: A Russian volcano situated on the Pacinic Kirt's "Ring of Fire" erupted yesterday, spewing ashes five miles high and forcing US airlines to change their flight paths. American satellites showed a 60-mile trail of ash from the Bezymyany volcano on the sparsely populated Kamchatka Peninsula in Russia's Far East. Flights between Russia and Alaska pass over Kamchatka. The eruption posed no immediate threat to the nearest communities. It was the second eruption this year of the 9,412ft Bezymyany, which dusted the region with ash last May. (AP)

UN troops leave Haiti

Miami: United Nations peacekeeping troops have begun leaving Haiti, three years after they arrived to help build democratic rule in the wake of a United States-led invasion to restore President Jean-Bertrand Aristide to power (David Adams writes). The country has been without a functioning government for months due to a power struggle between legislators loyal to Mr Aristide and a former Prime Minister. Rosny Smarth. The capital, Port-au-Prince, is alive with allegations and rumours of coup and assassination plots.

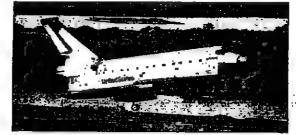
Killer jailed for 2,410 years

for raping and murdering dozens of women in the Johannesburg area over a period of nearly a decade. Moses Sithole, 33, who was convicted of 38 murders. 40 rapes and six robberies, would be eligible for parole in 950 years. Judge David Curlewis said that, if given the option, he would have passed a death sentence. Capital punishment was ended by the post-apartheid Constitution. (AP)

Basques retaliate with bomb

San Sebastian: Eta gunmen shot and seriously wounded a local politician's bodyguard and exploded a car bomb in apparent retaliation for the jailing of the leaders of their political wing. Violence erupted only hours before 23 leaders of the radical Basque separatist party Herri Batasuna were arrested to begin serving seven-year prison sentences for collaborating with the guerrillas. (Reuters)

Shuttle crew faces inquiry



The Columbia space shuttle makes its descent to the runway at the Kennedy Space Centre in Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday after a two-week science mission. The astronauts uury because of a botched satelli Mission Control skipped the customary congratulations after Columbia and its crew of six landed safely, (AP)

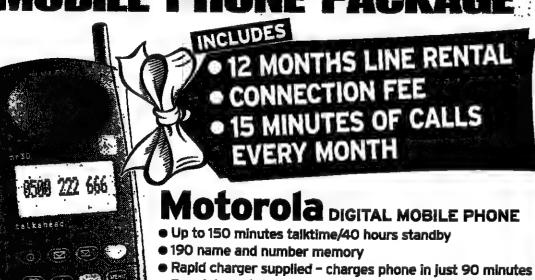
Swiss pay wartime victims

Basic: Swiss banks made the first payouts to Holocaust victims in a campaign to clear accounts dormant since the Second World War. No details were given. Some 6,000 claims have been filed since July, when bankers published worldwide a first list of names on dormant accounts. (AP)

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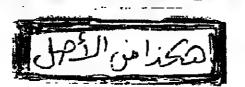
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Record sentence for animal rights bomber

By SIMON DE BRUXELLES

AN ANIMAL-rights bomber who carried out arson attacks on stores across the South of England was jailed for 18 years yesterday. It is believed to be the longest sentence for an animal-rights extremist.

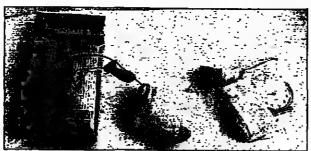
Barry Horne, 45, described by the judge as an urban-terrorist and by police as dangerous, ruthless and ab-solutely committed, caused millions of pounds of damage to shops on the Isle of Wight in

He used disguises and was not caught until two years later, when detectives acting on a tip-off arrested him as he planted incendiary devices in shops at Bristol, Judge Simon Darwall Smith told Horne yesterday: This was urban terrorism for a particular cause and objective. You put communities in terror. But I do accept you did not intend an attack on human life."

Last month Horne was found guilty on four charges of arson, five of attempted arson and one of possessing bombmaking equipment. He had earlier admitted two charges of attempted arson and two of possession of articles with

intent to damage property.

Horne punched the air in defiance as he was sentenced and cheering animal rights supporters banged on the windows of the public gallery



paigns carried out by animal rights extremists. The piece,

entitled 1994 - Fighting and Winning, said; "What an ex-

cellent year 1994 was: a year in

which we fought back and

inflicted losses on animal

Horne was arrested in July 1996 in Broadmead shopping

centre, Bristol by detectives from the South East Regional

Crime Squad, who had been

following him for more than a

month. He had been seen

placing incendiary devices in two stores. When he was

searched, four devices were

found inside the lining of his

jacket. He had put tape

around his fingertips to avoid

Detectives found 18 more

devices, each using a watch

face, battery, theatrical ma-

roon flare and incendiary

leaving prints.

One of Horne's cigarette-packet firebombs

at Bristol Crown Court. The court was told that Horne, who gave an address in Northampton, had previous convictions for similar offences.

After his release from prison on a charge of possessing incendiary bombs, he began planting firebombs in shops at Ryde and Newport on the Isle of Wight. In one night he caused so much damage that the island's emergency services called in reinforcements from the mainland.

His targets included a Boots store in Newport, which was destroyed at an estimated cost of £2.8 million. Other pargets included a fishing tackle shop. Halfords and Cancer Research shops, which were badly damaged in simultaneous explosions.

In January 1995, detectives raided Horne's temporary home at Swindon, Wiltshire, where they found an article

explosives expert who gave evidence at the Oklahoma and World Trade Centre bombing trials in America, told the court that most of the bombs were viable and had been designed by one person, or a small group "working closely together to a common plan". Home, who is unemployed,

did not give evidence or call witnesses during the seven-day trial. In mitigation, Alistair Edie told the court that he never placed devices near residential properties and that all were timed to go off late at night.

He said: "Mr Horne is not a ruthless and dangerous man. He is not a Mr Big. He is not a Lenin of the animal liberation movement, nor an urban terrorist."

Detective Chief Inspector Roy Lambert, who headed the investigation, said after the case: "Home is a very dangerous and ruthless man absolutely committed to his cause. We are very pleased at the

'We believe we have saved Bristol and other cities from horrendous fire-bombing campaigns. This man was not going to let anything come in his way." After Horne had been found

guilty, the court was told that he had convictions from 1988



Doctors who fail to give patients the needle

By IAN MURRAY MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

MANY junior ductors have never been taught to use it local anaesthetic, according to a study of the pain involved in supplying a blood sample.

Eighty-four per cent of the doctors never gave a incul anaesthetic before sticking a needle into an artery even though this is recommended as best practice. A hundred junior doctors at hospitals round the country took part in the trial, which was co-ordi-nated by St James University Hospital in Leeds: one quarter had not been taught how to administer a local anaesthetic.

Nearly half the doctors said they thought the local anaesthetic was as painful to admin-ister as taking the blood sample. Twelve per cent felt the procedure took too long and 8 per cent felt it made

matters too complicated. The findings showed that patients given an unaesthetic experienced less pain than those who had been given a placebo and those given no mection, and the doctors rated the procedure only slightly harder. Reporting the miai for the Journal of the Royal Coi-lege of Physicians. Mark Ellioff, consultant chest physician at Killingbeck Hospital

Leeds, writes: The myths that local anaesthetic makes the procedure more difficult and is as painful as arterial puncture should be dispelled."

Couple lose failed vasectomy claim

By RICHARD DUCK

A HIGH Court judge yester-day rejected the "sad" case of a couple who had unwanted twins after the husband's vasectomy failed.

Andrew and Louise Fulleylove, of Stevenage, Hertford-shire, blamed the strain of bringing up twins, while aiready caring for three other children, for the break-up of

their marriage. Mr Fulleylove, 36, and his wife, 33, had hoped to buy a new house and she had intended to return to work. But those plans were wrecked by the birth of Nathan and Jessica in August 1992. The couple's sex life was also ruined, they said, because Mrs Fulleylove no longer feit safe, and they separated in October 1994.

Mr Fulleylove claimed that the £72 vasectomy in June 1991 had not been done properly by Dr Michael Duggan, a local GP, who denied negligence. He also claimed that a semen analysis, three months later, which showed no sperm

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was present, was wrong and that he was not warned of the risk of spontaneous re-canalisation which would make him fertile again.

But Deputy Judge Mark Strachan, QC, said: "Mr and Mrs Fulleylove have the court's every sympathy, but on the question of legal re-sponsibility I'm afraid it's quite clear that none of the bases of the claim have been

The doctor, who had conducted up to 50 such procedures before he saw Mr. Fulleylove, had also correctly analysed the semen sample to be free of sperm. His consent form for the operation, which the Fulleyloves signed, Indicated that no guarantee of permanent sterility was given. The judge made a costs order against the couple, who were

legally aided. They had claimed £150,000 for bringing up the twins until maturity and damages for the distress and trauma caused by the unwanted pregnancy.

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THE CASE OF THE POLITICIANS' FAVOURITE POLICEMAN

Robocop counts down from zero



ay Mallon always knew his own profession hated the idea that any policeman should be feted by politicians and followed by television cameras. This weekend as he sits at home, suspended from duty on disciplinary charges he dismisses as specious, Superintendent Mallon must wonder whether he is yet another high-profile policeman who is a victim of his cours assets.

his own success.

During the election campaign, Tony Blair insisted on being photographed with the detective who was the self-declared advocate of "zero tolerance", an idea imported from America that advocates showing as little leniency to litter louis and drunks as it does to armed robbers.

Spin doctors embraced a

British law enforcer who spoke in soundbites. The media nicknamed him Robocop. When he was appointed head of Middlesbrough CID, he pledged to resign if he could not cut crime by 20 per cent in 18 months. Before the year was

Stewart Tendler and Paul Wilkinson on the low point of a high-profile policeman

out, he had cut it by more than a quarter, and didn't care if his methods were derided by fellow officers.

He knew the prevailing "canteen culture" in the force would always be suspicious and jealous of officers who something different. Now he is silenced by an investigation that could last a year. Suspended six days ago in a corruption investigation Cleveland police, he spent his week running and swimming. If the most serious allegations are proved - that he turned a blind eye to suspicions that his detectives were offering heroin to prisoners in return for confessions he could be jailed.

Mr Malion is not permitted to talk about the accusations.

gagged him from continuing his weekly newspaper column in The Northern Echo. They should know that his lawyers say that Mr Mallon is ready to fight and expose peny jealousies and rivalries within his profession. His lawyers may seek a High Court injunction next week to overturn the suspension. His wife, Carole, is considering an invitation from breakfast television to champion his cause.

Mr Mallon, 43, knew last Monday when he was summoned to the office of Bob Turnbull, an Assistant Chief Constable of Cleveland, that it meant trouble. He took a lawyer with him. At Ipm he walked into Mr Turnbull's first-floor office at police headquarters, ten minutes' drive from his own station. A few

minutes later, he left with four Regulation Seven discipline forms.

Across town, Mrs Mallon heard the bread. Criminals

heard the news of his suspension on the radio in the dentist's surgery as she took their daughters Victoria, 16, and Lois, 13 for a check-up. She said: "Victoria looked at me and I looked at her. We could not believe it. They were suggesting Ray, my husband and her dad, was a criminal. It was wrong, all wrong. I didn't of Durhau

vas like it wasn't real." Mr Mallon's superiors called a press conference to announce that some of the allegations involved Operation Lancet, which was investigating two Middlesbrough detectives allegedly swapping drugs for information. The claims implicated an officer who, less than two months ago, was lauded by Richard Brunstrom, another Assistant Chief Constable, when he announced the suspension of Detective Constables Sean Allen and Brendan Whitehead. Cleveland's head of CID. Chief Superintendent Keith Pitt, who was running the corruption investigation, added: "Ray Mallon shook the

know whether to scream there

and then in the treatment

room. I wanted to get out, I

coconuts." Now he is investigating Robocop.

The Times has been told the allegations against Mr

Mallon. It is claimed that he

trees and I picked up the

was the source for a story in the Newcastle Journal last month about three Cleveland officers facing a disciplinary inquiry after allegedly getting drunk and abusive on holiday in Crete. Local media sources, suggest the source of the story was a phone call from a member of the public.

that Mr Mallon told a journalist about a disciplinary charge against a senior detective in his unit nine years previously. In the third case, he allegedly gave details of the drugs-forconfessions case to a reporter.

The fourth accusation is said to be that he suppressed information about the two suspended detectives six months before they were removed from duty. Friends say that the drugs allegations were investigated by another officer, who told Mr Mallon there was nothing to pursue. This is the most dangerous charge he faces. The other issues could be dealt with by the force, but Mallon might be prosecuted for this allegation. His enemies loathe him for his

proach to policing. A lew years ago, no one would have believed that a middleranking detective from a provincial force on \$41,000 a year

could sow so much division.

Born and raised in Stocktonon-Tees. Mr Mallon is the son
of an undertaker. He left
school without qualifications
and in 1974 became one of the
first recruits to the newly
created Cleveland force. Parts
of Durham and North Yorkshire were fused with Teesside
to cover some of the most
dervived areas in Britain

example. When Mallon became Detective Chief Inspector in April 1994, crime was up 37 per cent for the year with a 30 per cent increase in burglaries. In two years, reported crime was cen by more than a quarter.

quarter.
Last year the local newspaper said: "Families in Hartlepool call him the best thing since sliced bread — criminals send him hate mail — but love him or hate him, Ray Mallon

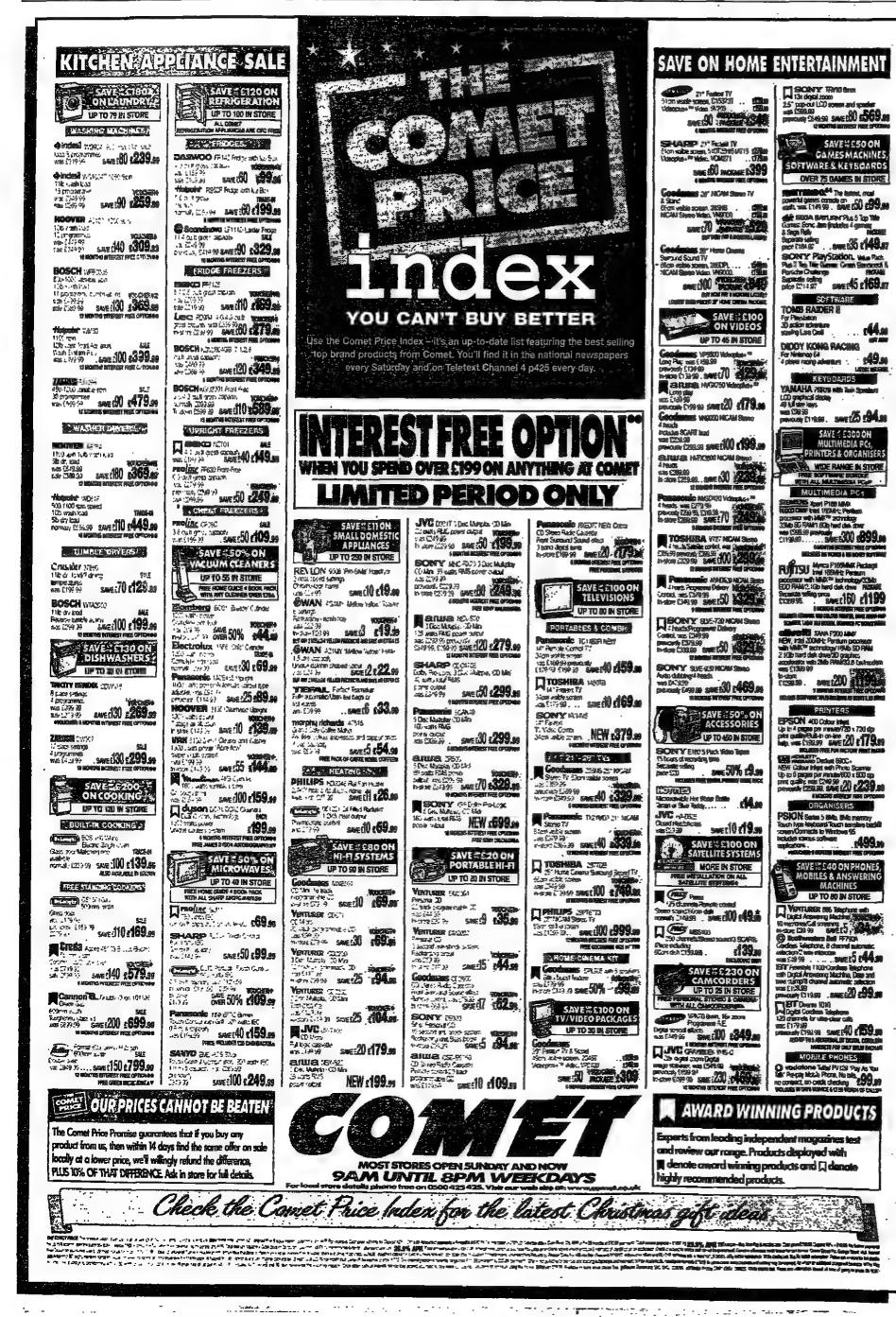
is unlikely to be forgonen."

Mr Mallon demanded total commitment from his officers. He told them to stop people dropping litter, spitting and other antisocial crimes, to reinforce the message that no crime would be tolerated. At the top end, he identified key criminals who were targeted.

Mallon might have re-

Mallon might have remained a successful player in a minor league but for the fact

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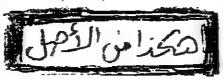
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THE CASE OF THE POLITICIANS' FAVOURITE POLICEMAN



Ray Mallon at a press conference on the suspension of two officers

Britain. His strategy was now

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fact that his success enincided with the discovery by British politicians of Bill Bratton. Commissioner of the New York Police and advocate of zero tolerance. Like Mr Mallon, Bratton believed in driving his officers to retake

the streets.

No one is now clear whether Mr Mallon imitated Bratton or whether they found the strategy independently, but in the summer of 1090 Bratton came to Britain and visited

Hartlepool for a television programme. In the general election, politicians beat a path to Mr Mallons's door.

Tony Blair brought along Helen Mirren, star of TV's Prime Suspect, for an election fell by 26 per cent — or 650 fell by 26 per cent — or

Prime Suspect, for an election photocall with Mr Mallon. Michael Howard said he was his "kind of cop".

He cut the numbers of his own CID department. Stop searches of suspects in the street quadrupled, and CS gas was used more by the Cleveland force than any other in

which goes out and makes things happen."

But Home Office officials privately wondered why Cleveland only had one Ray Mallon. Were there no other good officers? Cynics pointed out that both New York and Cleveland had been so bad. they could only get better.

The HMI report also

they could only get better.
The HMI report also showed that civil claims against the force had risen from 27 in 1990 to 162 in 1996.

eighbouring forces made it clear they would have nothing to do with zero tolerance. Frank Taylor, Chief Constable of Durham, pointed out he had a better crimefighting record than Cleveland. So did Northumbria.

land. So did Northumbria.

In September, Mr Mallon, newly created superintendent, spoke in a debate at the Police Superintendents' Conference. It was a bravura performance which would not have been out of place in an evangelical meeting. Although zero tolerance had much support, he was defeated by 198 to two. One delegate said: "The vote was more to do with his personality than his case."

Back in Hartlepool, Mr Mallon's successor is dedicated to continuing zero tolerance, and Cleveland is keen to emphasise that the investigations have nothing to do with the policy.

This week Jack Straw launched his Crime and Disorder Bill. unrepentant about zero tolerance but uncommunicative about Mr Mallon and his problems. In New York, Bratton now works for private industry after being sacked.





b Turnbull, the Assistant Chief Constable, speaks on Mr Mallon's suspension. Carole Mallon, right, heard the news while she was at the dentist with their children. She said: "We could not believe it. It was wrong, all wrong. It was like it wasn't real"

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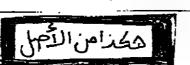
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Rector strikes it rich in Armagh's bandit country



Building bridges: Mr Kingston crosses the newly built footbridge at Creggan church. Grants have helped him to convert 13 acres into a park

Ulster is awash with ecus, dollars and pounds looking for good causes, says Martin Fletcher

IN THE heart of the bandit country of South Armagh. where the IRA controls the low ground and the Army huddles in hillton watchtowers, stands one of the most lavishly funded Anglican churches in the United Kingdom.

Here in the engine-room of militant republicanism, where 97 per cent of the population is Roman Catholic, just nine Protestants and their children still attend Creggan church near Crossmaglen, but it attracts so much international largesse that its rector, Mervyn Kingston, jokes about being a "proxy millionaire".

Among other things, he has converted 13 acres of the church's land into a park, put weirs into the adjacent river to improve the angling, and is planning to build ten selfcatering holiday cottages and a caravan site. In five years he has secured £600,000 for his projects and will shortly apply for another £500,000.

The 50-year-old Church of ireland clergyman has yet to have an application for money refused. Had he been a Home Counties vicar, he would be organising endless fêtes and sponsored bike rides to keep the tower from toppling over.

The Province is awash with ecus, dollars and pounds looking for good causes. Quite



Creggan church has secured £600,000 in funds since Mr Kingston took over in 1990

apart from receiving £3.4 billion more from the Exchequer than it pays in taxes each year and £150 million a year of EU structural funds, Northern Ireiand has been allocated nearly £200 million since 1995 from the EU's Special Support Programme for Peace and Reconciliation.

The International Fund for Ireland - financed by the US, EU, Canada, New Zealand and Australia - provides about £30 million a year for social and economic regeneration programmes in the north and Irish border counties. The Millennium Commission has awarded Northern Ireland far more lottery proceeds per capita — £53 — than any other UK region. Yet the Province has the same population — 1.6 million — as Hampshire.

Half the 14,000 applications for financial assistance submitted to the EU programme have been granted. It is sometimes said, not entirely in jest, that Northern Ireland's politicians cannot afford to make peace.

Mr Kingston is refreshingly candid. "I take the view that if it's there you should use it," he says. The key, he adds, is being a minority community in what most outsiders would consider entirely the wrong

place. Some 200 soldiers and policemen have been killed in South Armagh during the Troubles and all but the bravest or most stubborn Protestants have long since depart-Even today, army helicopters clatter across the sky in pairs to supply the hilltop forts, and IRA signs

hang from telegraph poles. When Mr Kingston arrived from the Shankill Road in Belfast, the Creggan church was run down but it did have an historic graveyard where three 18th-century Gaelic poets - Art McCooey, Patrick Mac Aliondain and Seamus Mor Mac Murphy - were for grants, portraying the church as part of a "shared heritage" and a "potential focus for the promotion of cultural diversity and reconciliation". The money rolled in -£9,000 to restore the vault. £35,000 for the church and its organ and £27,000 to turn the old coach-house and stables

buried. He began applying

into a splendid visitors' centre. Mr Kingston recently secured a further £504,000 to reclaim the old rectory's Victorian walled garden and commission sculptures of the three poets. The flood of money has not reversed what the rector himself calls the terminal decline" of his congregation. Nor is its relevance to the church's spiritual life immediately apparent. But it is lostering reconciliation.

To meet funding conditions. Mr Kingston's parishioners dropped objections to Catholics on their management committee. Catholics increasingly use the ball for social events. The projects have bought in jobs and tourists.

And when a local republican approached him for advice on a grant application, Mr Kingston complained about a tricolor flying from a pole outside his church. Within days it had been replaced by an EU flag.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Life for male prostitute turned killer

A male prostitute was sentenced to life at Bristol Crown Court yesterday for murdering a client's mother. Martin Dunnett, 32, of Crewkerne, Somerset, beat Gladys Parket senseless after she caught him searching her bungalow at Chard for eash. She was found by her son David, 46, who had been paying Dunnett for sexual favours.

Mrs Parker died in hospital seven weeks later. Dunnett was arrested but it was not until two years later, when his girlfriend told police what she knew about the crime, that he was charged.

In the mire

A farmer was charged with causing criminal damage after muck was sprayed on a branch of the NatWest bank in Ponteland, Northumber-land David Cannon, 68, of Morpeth, will appear before magistrates on January 8.

Made a meal of it

A teenage angler has broken the British record catch for the rare golden mullet despite the fact that his parents ate the evidence. David Tozer, 18, from Torquay, Devon, caught the 3lb 9oz fish off Torquay

Barman quizzed

An Australian wanted in connection with the murder of Carol Fyfe, 36, landlady of the Prince Arthur pub, Central London, was extradited from the United States. Police were questioning Gregory Mills, 27. a former barman.

Laser pen plea

A call for orgent research into the effects of laser pens was made by the Police Superin-tendents' Association. It said that more than half the forces had reports of pens being used temporarily to blind or distract people.

Brahms record

The working manuscript for two clarinet sonatas composed by Brahms in 1895, two years before his death, has fetched £441.500 - a world record auction price for a manuscript by the composer -- at Sotheby's in London.

Lost for words

Barnsley magistrates had to postpone an assault case because handwritten police evidence was illegible. Irvin the bench, said: "We get som unusual excuses for not going ahead but this is a classic."

One cool cat

A cat was rescued by firemen after it became frozen to a roof overnight in Wiltshire. Sergeant Dave Melvin, of Chippenham police, said: The poor cat was distressed by the ordeal but was well enough to run off."

A TALE OF TWO COUNTIES

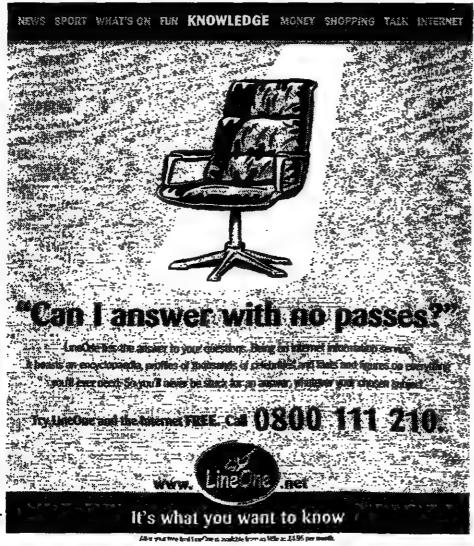


Population: Northern Ireland I.6m; Hampshire I.6m. Unemployment: Nothern Ireland 7.8%; Hampshire 3.3%.

Average weekly earnings (1996): Northern Ireland £306.20: Hampshire £349.50. Average EU funding per annum (est): Northern Ireland £215m; Hampshire £2m.

Millennium Commission grants: Northern Ireland £71.4m; Hampshire £43.7m.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

Feminist tells women, cuddle up together

old soldiers, never die. Successful Without A Penis, suggests one useful title on the German bestseller lists. Let's Kill Barbie is another

The thrust of this literature has barely changed over the past 20 years: it takes the assumptions of the feminist canon and turns them into instruction manuals for mainly young women who feel excluded from a maledominated institution.

Fortunately, Shere Hite, chronicler of the female orgasm in the 1970s, did not die, nor did she fade away: she did, however, move to Germany and become a German citizen. The author of the Hite reports on female and male sexuality s now 55 and has produced a hook on female behaviour which is set to be as controversial as its predecessors.

How Women See Women (so far only available in German, Europa Verlag, Munich) asks questions about loyalty between women. "In 25 years," she says, "we have changed our relationships with men and have changed ourselves, but we have not changed sufficiently the ways women deal with other women."

Hite is reluctant to discuss her own female friendships across Europe — she lives in Cologne and Paris - for fear of trivialisation. "You wouldn't ask Samuel Huntington whether he has clashed with any civilisations lately, would you?" It has to be assumed that the many women quoted about their often nervous, over-hesitant friendships are not trawled from her two decades as one of the world's leading sexologists rather than from personal experience.

Avany

er arguments are intuitive rather than empirically based, but no less interesting for that. Sigmund Freud and Bruno Bettelheim also built theories on the basis of observation, anecdotal material and deep thought, says Hite, and what is good for the founding fathers of psychoanalysis is good for her.

"Lovalty between women." she says, "is a bigger taboo than lesbianism. There is a pressing need for a middle status between the kind of best friend that is dumped as soon as a man appears on the horizon and the sexual intensity of lesbianism. Women can earn solidarity and intimacy and can shed the idea that they are compenitors. Physical closeness — cuddling in front of the television, bathing together, setting up house together, bringing up a child should all be possible, espe-cially in a world where divorced, unmarried or widowed women make up the

majority of a city's population. Women can and should be mentors of younger women. And if two women directors are on a male-dominated company board, they should coordinate their voting to the benefit of other women. We have the power of numbers women make up more than one half of the world's population - so we should be asking ourselves: can't we make better alliances together?"

Feminist writers have always described and called for a sisterhood, a common area of feminine activity. Yet, says Hite the practical dynamics of

furtive glance at the bookshelves suggests feminists, like this sisterhood have not really been debated, nor have the origins of female rivalry. origins of female rivalry.

"When a woman walks into a room at a business meeting or a party, another woman watching her may automatically think to herself, 'Is she prettier than me? Younger, better dressed?". What if a woman thinks instead: Here comes a woman. Will she be a good addition to my life? How would I like to relate to her?

The problem of female rivalry, the stumbling block to full emancipation, starts in early girlhood. Mothers hide their sexuality from their daughters as part of the maternal mystique. "Girls feel at a very early age that touching another woman in any kind of way that relates to sexual parts of the body is forbidden." The relationship with men is generally far more open. "Even when a man and a woman are not sexual together, there is comfort in knowing that the body is accepted as part of

NEW RULES

Shere Hits on how women should treat

Formers

Once you've made a date with a girlfriend, stick to it and do not cell it off cause a man has rung. □ Compliment your

☐ Ring her regularly.
☐ A mendship neede at least one deep conversation every three weeks or

Do not forget to plan to future.

Always listen to your girifriend. Don't talk solely about

your man or child.

Never tell your friends that you are too busy to

Do not drop her like a hot potato as soon as you tall in love or have a baby.

overall identity," says Hite. "But between women, though women's friendships are often excellent, the early sexual taboo causes psychological hesitation and confusion." These attitudes shape relations between women in the workplace. Women, it seems, have to transcend this taboo if they are to realise their potential.

women should start treating their women friends (see above). To a man, this advice sounds rather banal. But Shere Hite's appeal -- certainly her skill at making the bestseller lists — is to link practical lifestyle guidance with philosophical musings. It really does seem as if women need to be reminded to treat their women friends as equals with their male lovers. And her questions do niggle: "Why do men create male loyalty systems that work (political parties, sports teams) whereas women do not?"

Hite is in fact very good at posing questions. She seems to tread across a borderland between popular culture and the intellectually diverting, and although her conclusions are a little anaemic, the questions asked en route are always interesting. Her tech-nique, but also her personality, sets her apart from the likes of Andrea Dworkin and Kate Millett. She is not a dungarees feminist. To finance her doctoral studies at Columbia University, she signed up as a model. Some nude pictures taken then ap-

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Historical solidarity: Shere Hite visits a statue of the 19th-century French woman author, George Sand

embarrassment) in Playboy. The decisive advertisement in her modelling career was for Olivetti. She appeared as a secretary next to a typewriter which was described in the copy as being "So smart she doesn't have to be". The crudity of the text helped to propel her towards the National Organisation of Women, which picketed Olivetti's Manhattan office. A feminist was born. But her looks — she is still a pale beauty - remained part of her career, earning her big television promotion and some resentment from other

The Hite reports were criticised for their methodology. She sent out 100,000 questionnaires to women's organisations, and thus drew a rather self-selecting response: angry comments from angry women. Hite replied to her critics with some justification:



Shere Hite with concert pianist Friedrich Häricke

to be scientific is not the same as to be representative. Prominent sexologists praised her work, and her findings about the difficulty of women reaching orgasm, about male and female infidelity touched a raw nerve in the 1970s and 1980s. They were a snapshot of the times.

The mood turned ugly in America, however, after the publication in 1987 of the third Hite report, Women And Love. country ... the sort of things

that happened around that time ranged from gross harassment by national television networks, physical intimidation and disruption at my lectures, hostile taunts and threats left on my answering machine." She blamed the reactionary Reagan-Bush climate" which pitted fundamentalist Christians against writers who dealt with sexually explicit subjects.

Partly because of the backlash, but also because she fell in love with the German concert plan1st Friedrich she moved to Häricke. Cologne. The cultural atmosphere in Europe, she says, is better and she is in constant contact with women's groups there. It seems an odd kind of life, giving a new layer of meaning to the term "professional woman"; womanhood has become her calling.

ROGER BOYES



Model friendship: Marie Helvin and Jerry Hall



Supportive: Kate Moss and Naomi Campbell

By ERICA WAGNER

irl power has been much in the news since the advent of the Spice Girls, and now Shere Hite has climbed on the bandwagon. Women need passionate friendships, she says: feminism has only taken us so far because we cannot overcome the rivalries that exist among ourselves.

But literature, history and popular culture are littered with examples of women who have stuck together. Someof these friendships has led to explosive endings, but that is often the case when passion. whether sexual or amicable, is in the mix.

Madonna was thick as thieves with comedian Sandra Bernhard for a while: that friendship, some say, helped to break up the pop icon's marriage to Sean Penn (which was probably not what Hite had in mind). But Linda Robson and Pauline Quirke. those birds of a feather, are still great chums, always on television together and tuntil recently) living near each oth-

er in north London. The supermodel friendship has an ancient lineage (or as ancient as supermodels may admit to being): Jerry Hall and Marie Helvin spring to mind; they met while modelling in the 1970s. Naomi Campbell, Kate Moss, Christy Turlington and Co continue the tradition of sharing each other's Mariboros and being supportive after those long days in front of the camera.

Just the other week we witnessed Victoria Spencer and Chantal Collopy - presumably rivals — united in the

face of Earl Spencer's notquite-gentlemanly, behaviour. Author Lisa Jardine, Professor of Renaissance Studies at Queen Mary and Westfield College, wrote last week in The Guardian of the importance to her of her "girl gang". She believes firmly that women can and will support each other, there is only a perception that they won't.

"I think the difficulty for women in the workplace is the way that antagonism to each other seems to be structured in: women are perceived as men simply are not. That's not only unfair, it impedes what's really necessary — that wamen should inin together Male friendships are invisible because they are everywhere.

She says: "Female friendship is more visible, because there are still fewer women in positions of power, and that is a problem, but it won't be for

uthor and commentstor Sarah Dunant whose closest friendship, with a woman who now lives in America, has lasted more than 20 years and is, she feels, marked by a degree of honesty that could never exist between lovers - does not believe, as Hite does, that rivairy too often mars women's friendships; but she does believe in preserving friendships outside romance.

Marriage or a relationship, is sometimes seen to provide everything — your partner should be your lover. your best friend, your confldante — but no one can supply all that Female friendship reaches parts that men can't

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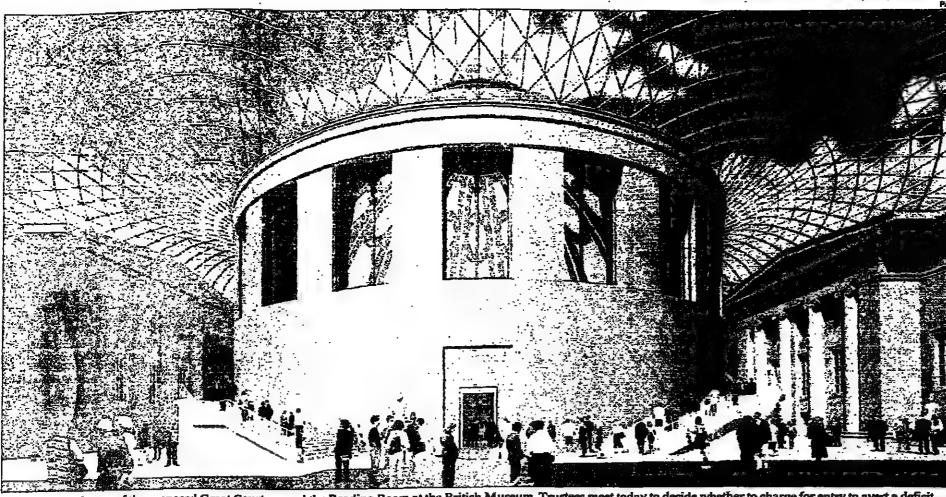
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COMPUTERS FOR A CONNECTED WORLD



A computer image of the proposed Great Court around the Reading Room at the British Museum. Trustees meet today to decide whether to charge for entry to avert a deficit

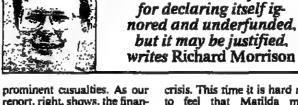
On the ropes: the RSC and The Spanish Tragedy

Arts paint picture of culture in crisis

tF gloomy headlines could kill, the arts world would be buried by now, in the past few weeks the Royal Opera House has been revealed to be in chaos. The Royal Shakespeare Company has announced a deficit of £1.6 million. The Chichester Festival has parted from its director after a E000,000 loss on the season.

The Old Vic is being sold after running up a £2 million loss on Sir Peter Hall's repertory theatre season. English National Opera's future is clouded in uncertainty, after the resignation of its general director and the suggestion of Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, that it be shunted into Covent Garden, Several famous British orchestras have nearly empty order books and some pioneering London theatres are screaming blue murder after having their grants

These are only the most



report, right, shows, the financial turmoil is spread through form. To cap it all, the British Museum trustees meet today to decide whether to impose admission charges in order to avert a large deficit. If that bastion of free entry falls, museum insiders say, every other free museum throughout the land will follow suit.

No wonder that the Prince of Wales observed a fortnight ago that the arts were becoming of secondary or even tertiary importance" in British society. The arts world is infamous for declaring itself in

crisis. This time it is hard not to feel that Matilda may actually be burning.

The art world is infamous

The dominant feeling in arts circles at present, however, is not panic. It is anger. Arts organisations feel betrayed. At the general election the "luvvie vote" was emphatically with Labour. The arts world, which had seen public subsidy plunge in real terms under John Major, expected Labour to pump-prime a renaissance. Encouraging speeches from Tony Blair about the importance of culture to his vision of Britain did nothing to dampen such hopes. But Labour's manifesto

carefully made no financial pledges to the arts world, and now the reality of that vaguess is sinking in. As the Kurt Weill song says: "It's a long, long time from May to December". In the past week there have been bitter accusations that Labour is much more interested in jumping on the bandwagon of "sexy" culture - film, design, pop music - than in preserving the traditional glories of theatre, concert hall and art gallery. Even the change of name on the minister's front door from Heritage to Culture seems to symbolise Labour's lack of concern with the "grown-up" arts.

It is not just falling subsidy that has caused the present crisis. Box-office income this year, particularly for theatre, has been hit by two factors outside the control of their administrators: the strong pound, which has deterred tourists, and the death of Diana, Princess of Wales, which apparently wiped out theatregoing for the best part of a formight.

Then there is the National Lottery. Once hailed as the arts' saviour, it has proved a mixed blessing. Confined by regulations mostly to funding "capital projects", it is useless for dealing with revenue defi-cits. Yet it bankrolls vast building schemes which then soak up disproportionately large amounts of fundraising effort and managerial time. One reason for Covent Garden's seemingly inept manmay be that its executives were so busy worrying about the Royal Opera House's redevelopment that they took their eyes off the day-to-day running of the House.

It does not help that the Arts Council is currently in impotent inertia: no secretary-general since May, and no new chairman yet appointed to succeed Earl Gowrie. Such is its present lowly status that it has been humiliatingly sidelined during the present opera dispute by the Culture Secretary's direct interventions. That in turn has called into question the entire "arm's length principle" by which the arts are funded. Another destabilising factor.

Other sources of funding are also faltering. Corporate arts sponsorship, the hope of the 1980s, is proving increas-ingly clusive. The Midland Bank's hardnosed withdrawal from supporting Prom performances at Covent Garden after 25 years, in favour of supporting a rock festival, reveals the extent of the image problem for arts fundraisers.

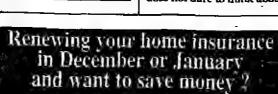
Local authorities, with shining exceptions, have shrunk their arts budgets to negligible levels. That has torpedoed many regional rep theatres. The arts have been marginalised in classrooms, as schools are pressurised into concentrating on "academic" subjects. That has made it difficult for arts organisations to build links with young audiences. And serious culture is virtually excluded from mainstream television, the greatest popularising medium of our age, as the networks obsessively chase ratings.

It is a grim picture, and there is not much consolation in the fact that matters are no better abroad. In America the National Endowment for the Arts has just issued a huge, pessimistic document revealing that annual donations to American arts bodies have fallen by a disastrous £150 million in three years. and accusing the arts world of

irrelevant". In Russia and Eastern Europe many formerly world-class ensembles have been blown away by the cold gale of market forces. Even in France, Italy and Germany, organ-isations once plushly cushioned by subsidy are now desperately seeking private and corporate saviours.

Hope in Britain now resides in Labour's revisions of the lottery regulations. If lottery money can be released for general-purpose arts spend-ing, the climate will be transformed. But even here danger lurks. Lottery money could insidiously be used to replace (rather than supplement) Treasury funding of the arts ... and then the lottery might dry up. It is the doomsday scenario that the arts world does not dare to think about.





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THE STATE THEY ARE IN - -

Juggling grants, loans and box-office receipts in an ever more desperate attempt to keep the deficit within manageable proportions has become a way of life for many in the arts world. Dalya Alberge examines the state of companies around the country



ROYAL ACADEMY OF ARTS

☐ Relies on sponsorship; no public funding or government subsidy. The RA is applying to the National Loftery for funds for a feasibility study on redoing the Museum or Mankind. Has staged some excellent exhibitions but has not been as successful as it would have liked in attracting a younger generation— It tried to address that with the confroversial show Sensation; which included the Myra Hindley portrait, Sponsorship has been tough to find and the RA has been forced to turn to a third division football club, Peterborough, for its next show.



In administration. The funding situation could not be more desperate. The theatre is due to close on January 3 unless a benefactor can be found. Inland Revenue moved in because of debt and on October 6 Ernst & Young were appointed administrators. Has a long tradition of launching famous playwrights, including Alan Bleasdale, Many believe the theatre has been untakey neglected but local authorities — notably Liverpool — are particularly strapped for cash. The loss will be widely lamented.

E1 million from taxpayer, £16.2 million from lottery but needs to raise £6 million by 1999. Massive rebuilding project on target. Maintains reputation for artistic excellence and image. for artistic excellence and image for controversial stagings, most recently a play about teenage gang rape. Attacked in 1995 for explicit sex and violence in Blasted.



person it's jus of the



☐ £1.25 million from taxpayer; £379,000 from lottery. Standstill funding from the Arts Council means cut in real terms. Local authority funding far from adequate but City of Menchester very supportive. Finances des-



.e.

2

perate but no more so then most orchestras. Maintaining antistic standards in performances around the country. One critic wrote recently: "If I try to describe why last night's concert was so excling and rewarding, I shall soon run out of superlatives."

TateGallery

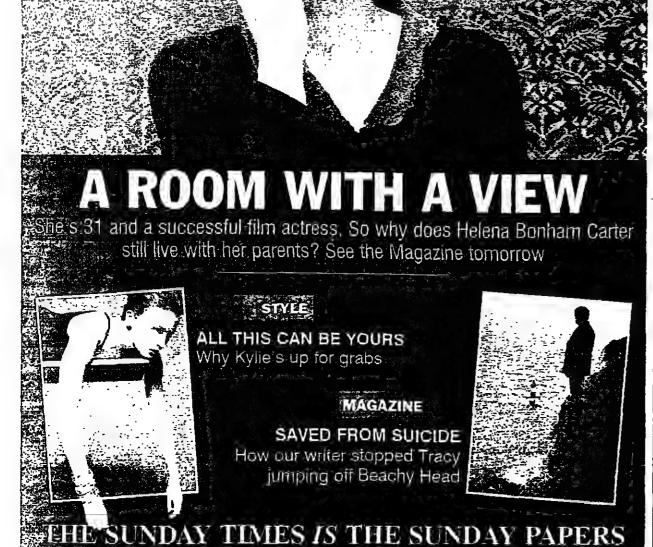
☐ £18.86 million from texpeyer, lottery grants of £18.75 million and £50 million for Millibank and Bankalde projects; needs to reise £27 million. On verge of charging to meet £1 million debt. Reising money from sponsorship, publishing, retailing. Staffing is biggest cost. Probably room for further expansion of commercial ventures to ensure free access to core collections. Good exhibitions.

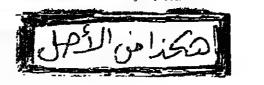
21.3 million from taxpayer, £23 million from lottery for new theairs after IRA bomb. Needs to raise \$500,000. Before bomb, was enjoying a successful phase, wiping out a deticit. Hopes to open in a year and double output. Excellent productions. Keeping up morals and performing is a mobile theatre until new building opens. Loyal audiences.



☐ £8.8 million from taxpayer; has submitted lottery bid for feasibility study into £75 million redevelopment of Stratford headquarters. Facing deficit of £1,6 million, wants help from Government. When it cut London season wants help from Government. When it cut London season by half, grant from Corporation of London stasted by more than £1 million. Difficulties exacerbated by freeze on grant for four years. Announcement due on December 10. Money from Les Miserables has been tailing off. Generally very high quality productions, but audiences can sense cost-cutting: cast sizes, for example, have gone down.







THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

VALERIE GROVE MEETS: GERALD KAUFMAN

You should never take things personally, it's just part of the game'

ake off your coat and hat,"
says Gerald Kaufman,
"and leave your worries on the doorstep." He wears an insouciant air for one who has just put a bomb under the Royal Opera House with his lacer-

He had been in a meeting discussing the Millennium Dome when news came of the Opera House board's mass resignation. Kaufman professed himself "surprised", "It's very peculiar," he said innocently, as if the resultant chaos is nothing to do with him.

There's got to be a board, because the board appoints the board. It is what has been described as a self-perpetuating oligarchy'. If the board dissolves itself as an entity, then the Secretary of State takes

over." So Chris Smith is left in the mire. "He's the Secretary of State," cries Kauf-man, "He's got all these well-informed l said advisers." Mary Allen - whose behaviour over her appointment as chief executive fell serious ly below the standard expected of the princibody" — had sounded

pretty impressive on Radio 4's Today programme, "I am not going to make any personal comment about Mary Allen or anyone else. Before she gave evidence. I had met her on a handful of occasions and she seemed to me an agreeable person. I have no animus against

her or indeed anyone else." I was surprised to learn that Kauiman, who at 67 has been in the public swim for so long, had never met the board until now. "I am not part of the social circle of the opera. house," he said. He had never set eyes on Lord Chadlington, who has now resigned as chairman, or Robert Gavron, a board member, until they gave evidence before the select committee. He had met Vivien Duffield, another board member, once before. "She works

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isn't she?" he said - an understatement, since Mrs Duffield has poured millions of her personal fortune into Covent Garden - "and she seems to know a lot of other people who are generous. That is a

very important capability." Quite, Mrs Duffield and Mr Gavron were exonerated from blame in Kaufman's report - but the milchcow baby has now been thrown out with the bathwater.

Could he specify which "philistine with financial acumen" he would suggest to run the opera house instead of the "succession of opera and ballet lovers who have brought a great institution to its knees"? "It would be unfair," he laughed, "to single out one. Unfair on all the other philistines." It turns out that he did know

one of his victims well. "Jeremy Isaacs and I were at Oxford together, in the Labour Club, and he even says I introduced him to certain sorts of music." Yet he had questioned · Sir-Jeremy's competence. spoken One compartmentalises

somebody was a friend, or was someone for whom I have a great personal regard, I don't think I should refrain from saying what I believe ought to be said. Isn't that a sanctimonious thing to say? But that's how I approached it. I thought long and hard about the passages relating to

The report was, of course, the collaborative, unanimous work of his 11-strong committee - "we proceeded in collegiate fashion" but its trenchant soundhites have the hallmark of the tabloid-trained hack. Kaufman, who started on the Daily Mirror in 1955 at £750 a year. wrote speeches for Harold Wilson, and sketches for That Was The Week That Was - notably the item about "the silent men of Westmin-"ster". MPs who had not uttered a



6 He is

scathing

about the

grandees

who sit at

little tables

ingesting

smoked

word in the House for years — and uttered the apercu that the 1992 Labour manifesto was "the longest suicide note in history".

Kaufman is a singular cove. I recall his giving the annual press awards one year and delivering an ill-judged joke, unprintable here — a definition of "queers". He is said to be vain, waspish, good company and — like many single men who were their mothers' darlings invincibly self-confident. He was the seventh child of an immigrant mend a better place in the family." he says. He was cosseted by five sisters who bought him comics and

Three of the sisters and his elder brother went to work in tailoring factories; two sisters became teachers. All stayed in Leeds, apart from little Gerald. He must have been swottish at school to get his exhibition in classics to Oxford: "But I had lots of friends. In fact the other day I went with an old friend from Leeds Grammar School to see Spohocles' Electra at the Donmar

Warehouse.* Recently he wrote a fine, moving essay about his mother, who could not read English, only Yiddish. (Kaufman regards himself as a "negligent but practising Jew".) Mother was self-sacrificial, forever at the stove but also a cinema-going companion to her son. He claims there were 55 cinemas in Leeds in the 1930s.

When I express incredulity, he says Keith Waterhouse claims there were more. He became a cineaste. "Going to the pictures" is a hobby in Who's Who,

and LA Confidential is the best new film he has trammelled by family commitments, he goes to theatre and opera too. nor lowbrow. I will go to anything, listen to anything and watch any thing that appeals." He had seen the National Theatre's Cyrano de Bergerac at Blackpool; had booked for Tosca at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester, Othello at

salmon 🤊 the Nationa, and the Sondheim musical Saturday Night at the Bridewell Theatre later this month. He first came to London to a

bedsitter in Stamford Hill, as bleak as it sounds, to be general secretary of the Fabian Society. In those days he sat in the gods but even now that be can afford the stalls, his feelings about Covent Garden are "ambivalent". In this week's Spectator he refers to its "stilling aura of social

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exclusivity". "Every time I set foot there I was overwhelmed by the feeling that I was not wanted as a

Perhaps this is the key to Kaufman's hounding of the ROH board. He thinks opera-goers are snobs. but not opera buffs. He is graphically scathing

> the Crush Bar ("I never could"), or sit at little tables ingesting smoked selves with their "bulkily expensive" grammes, or open their Marriage of Figaro programme and exclaim "Ohl It's by Mozarti" In his office, the screen behind him announces that Mr M. Howard is

now speaking in the

about the grandees who

European debate. "Ah, the SHADOW Foreign Secretary," said Kaufman with relish. "It's nice saying that I love being able to use the phrase, the previous Government'. People are really happy that we've got rid of

I began to list the things people are far from happy about this week - killing Peps and Tessas, stupid beef ban, etc - when he interrupted: This Government will do

many extremely unpopular things before it faces the electorate again: that is in the nature of being in government. I don't have to be madly keen on every single thing it does. On the other hand, I support this Government; I've not waited 18

years for a Labour government just to start griping. "Sometimes I will voice my reservations, but only privately. I am a sycophant but not a mindless

weekend (eg. to draw the raffle at the Gorton Labour Club tomor row), he was going home to his flat near Regent's Park to finish a Patricia Cornwell novel: "I detest her books but I review crime fiction for The Scotsman."

A ubiquitous reviewer, he admires authors who remain civil despite his adverse notices. "There's a woman called Janet Cohen, a BBC governor, whose books I think are terrible, and she's lovely about it. I was very hostile to Noel Annan's Our Age but when we met at a dinner. he couldn't have been nicer. It taught me a lesson" - and perhaps there is a message here for the vilified and embattled opera board members you should never take things personally, it's just part of the

Cuts that forget the play's the thing Hamlet

The Barbican

veryone knows the old joke about the folly of playing Hamlet without the Prince. But at the Barbican it sometimes seems the Prince without Hamlet. Alex Jennings is impressive in the title role. The problem is what the often exciting, sometimes foolbardy young director Matthew Warchus has done with the play.

The first scene, ghost and all, is missing. All we see is Jennings's Hamlet pouring the ashes of his dead father on to the ground in front of film of his happy childhood. Then we cut to a party where Paul Freeman's dinnerjacketed Claudius smoothes with Susannah York's svelte, smiling Gertrude and, later, Edward Petherbridge's Ghosi appears amid the fun to lead his son to a seat sprouting from the brutalist concrete of Mark

Thompson's Elsinore. Where there should be armour and a beaver, there is a velvet jacket and a bow-tie, and where there should be horror. grief and rage there is gentlemanly fastidiousness. Unsurprisingly, there is no metaphysical or, for that matter, political dimension to this

Warchus's cuts see off 'something is rotten in the state of Denmark" and many a great line. He also opts for dubious transpositions and spurious additions. The effect is to turn a poetic tragedy into a naturalistic family drama that, believe it or not, ends with sentimental film footage of the boy prince cavorting in the snow with his pa: Hamlet filtered through Hello! magazine.

et me admit I liked it more, or disliked it less, than when I saw it at Stratford in May. The production has a brisk, cinematic flow and there are some striking stage pictures. There are also some decent performances, notably Freeman's Claudius and Warchus's reductionism does not help David Ryall, whose Polonius lacks bite, or Jennings himself.

That is a huge pity, for his Hamlet combines grace, intelligence and emotional vojatility. To see him steer his way from excitement at the arrival of Rosencrantz and Guildenstern to cold mistrust when he twigs their motives is to watch a skilful actor near the height of his powers. But why must he hold a gun to his head in the "to be" speech? Why can't he deliver the monologue that starts "how all occasions do inform against me"?

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Museums, money and modernity

The British Museum can learn from the V & A, says Alan Borg

The trustees of the British Museum meet today to decide whether they must introduce admission charges. No one concerned with museums will envy them in this task, not least because their decision surely has to provide the foundations for a sustainable long-term future for the institution.

It is widely rumoured that the Government has found additional funds to bail out the British Museum for next year while the other great national museums will face yet another round of swingeing cuts to their grants. If we set aside the question of whether this is a sensible or equitable use of public money, the key issue remains the long-term future of all our national collections.

The very fact that the British Museum, with six million visitors a year, finds itself forced to consider a course which it has so vigorously decried is vivid evidence of just how parlous the state of museum funding now is. If museums and galleries are important, indeed vital, to our national soul, then it is equally vital that they are able to establish for themselves a future that is much more than keeping the wolf from the door or slow genteel decay.

Eighteen months ago, in a different political climate, the Victoria and Albert Museum was faced with financial circumstances that were perhaps worse than those confronting the British Museum today. The trustees' eventual decision to introduce admission charges was made only after deep heart-searching. But charging was a less unpalatable means of balancing our budget than the additional severe cuts to services and staff that would have been made necessary by reductions in

Our concern was to give the museum the best fighting chance to sustain and developfor the future those education-al initiatives, community programmes, family activities and other events and services for the public from which so much of the museum's value derives. We felt that charging, children and students, together with a daily period open free to all (and some 45 per cent of our visitors still come in free), was the only way in which we could hope to achieve this.

I am not suggesting here that charges are necessarily the answer to the British Museum's dilemma — every institution must find its own solution, but the problem is common to us all. A quick fix will only mean that the problem will be back again next year and this plainly will not

Too much of the recent debate over museum admission charges has given the impression of being concerned with temporary papering over of funding cracks, in a Micawberish faith that some-

thing will turn up. It is time to ask how our museums can be put on to a funding basis that allows them to plan for progress and development, because change

In the past few weeks alone two major art centres have opened, the Guggenheim in Bilbao and the new Getty in America. In this country new museums have arrived and established ones have been transformed. We have a new Government emphasising the importance of design and edu-cation, in both of which museunis have a crucial role to play. The audiences for museums are increasingly visually aware. For museums, I believe renewal is now not optional but an essential element in retaining our engagement with visitors.

redisplayed II major galleries in the past ten years, and we are now finalising the designs for the complete renewal of our 15 British galleries, a project equivalent in scale to a decent-sized museum.

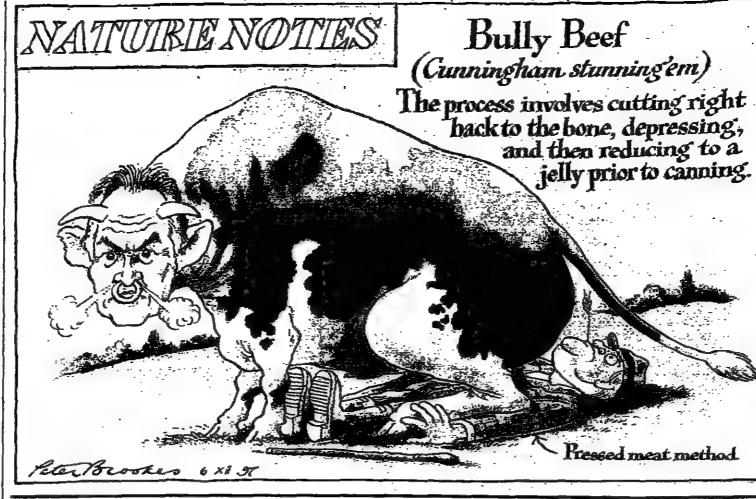
By any standards, the current 50-year-old galleries are now sad, down-at-heel and inadequate settings for the 3,000 glorious works by Adam. Chippendale and other great names of British art that they house. Their redesign was my first priority when I became Director and we now have a scheme that does them full justice.

The elegant and intelligent design proposals by Dinah Casson and David Minaric at last bring many marvellous works of art out from behind glass to be properly appreciated in open displays. Controlled lighting and environ-ment will enable us to display material which previously was considered too sensitive. New technologies will provide visitors with access to a wealth of information related to the works on show.

uch of the thinking behind these redesigns is in response to research that has shown us iust how little the average museum visitor now gets from the old galleries they will replace. Particularly for the with information miliar through multimedia (a week in which the Turner Prize was won by a multimedia artist signals this new visual sophistication), a very different gallery experience needs to be provided. Equally clear has been that the galleries must be completely accessible to the widest spread of visitors, and for those with disabilities.

We believe that it is essential to make such a commitment to deliver for the future and it is heartening to find so many supporters who see the V&A as investing for tomorrow. I hope that, whatever the British Museum trustees decide, the Government will now address how all museums should be funded to build the long-term renaissance that our visitors require and deserve.

The author is Director of the Victoria and Albert Museum.



Boneless wonders

he giant finger whooshes out of the night sky and points at the dumbstruck face in the window. "It could be you. ture Minister Jack Cunningham impersonated the National Lottery advertiser. As the nation's fork was poised with a T-bone steak on its way to the nation's mouth, Dr Cunning-ham screamed: "Don't touch it." According to the great god science, new variant Creutzieldt-Jakob disease (nvCJD) could be lurking in that mouthful. There is a small risk, and where there is risk, a government

Perhaps only mathematicians are aware of the enormity of what the Government did this week. It took a risk that is statistically negligible and exploited it as an act of insufferable nannying. Beef ribs, T-bones and oxtails present a public health risk publicised as "very small" and "a chance of one case per year" (though none of Britain's 22 nvCJD cases has been positively linked to beef). Most newspapers cluelessly converted "a chance" into a certainty, and ridiculed the risk as a tiny one in 56 million. But that is not what the scientists said. They suggested the chance was "5 per cent", so the risk is nearer to one in 1.1 billion, or one in 560 million among the half of the population that eats beef. There can have been no more tenuous basis for an infringement of personal liberty.

familiar. When a politician sees a letter from the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee (SEAC) his knees wobble, his head moves from side to side and he slides into the statistical mud. The infection is passed on from "the science" in a sixmonthly viral dose that drives every minister to the political abattoir. Probability theory, risk assessment and statistical numeracy give way to the one art at which these people are

supreme, banning things. My reaction is to wonder what other innocent activity is in danger from new Labour. On the Richter scale of T-bane terror, doom must now hover over motorbikes, alcoholic drink, children's playgrounds, jogging and hot baths. The Cabinet must be at risk of negligence in not banning pastimes more injurious to the nation's health than beef. How can it permit men to ski downhill, go to Egypt, sleep with prostitutes or eat butter? How can it let women take the Pill or drive cars alone?

The T-bone terror proves that ministers have no grasp of science or maths - let alone our liberties

This Government is plainly eager to outdo the last in the banning stakes. Forthunting and low wages are for the chop, but the past week alone has seen the long arms of the law close round in-bone beef, tobacco advertising, children out after dark, "antisocial" neighbours and front doorsteps. When I read about the last, I assumed it was a joke. But no. Environment Secretary John Prescott's new building control manual does not lie. The British doorstep joins the unventilated lavatory as a forbidden hazard to the nation's health.

There can be no end to this madness. If he bans doorsteps, Mr Pres-"upstairs" with out lifts. Stairs are the killing fields of the family home. Hundreds die on them each year. They are drenchedin blood and creaking with risk. Mr

sumably to be forced into a standardised "Blair Millennium Bungalow". If floodwater pours under its stepless front door, too bad. I wonder which carpet salesman gave El million to Labour last year.

Democratic politics has long been the art of spreading risk. But there must be a limit. What is unsettling in the BSE-CJD saga is the susceptibility of politicians to science. It is 18 months since the scare began. In that time almost £5 billion has been squandered in payments to those who visited this minor menace on the consumer. Britons are currently paying a penny on income tax in compensation. No industry other than agriculture would have been rewarded for its collective misfortune or misbehaviour in this way: no drugs company, no car manufacturer. no engineer, no asbestos maker. Yet the Treasury has even compensated the venal renderers, to the tune of £150 million in a year, i hope the new inquiry into the BSE affair will

seek the justification for this particu-lar handout, which no minister has

fully explained Yet over CJD I have some sympathy with the farmers. The scientists who first sounded the alarm over CJD specifically said that the "probable" link with BSE in cattle was not sufficiently strong nor sufficiently widespread to justify wholesale slaughter or a food ban. They just wanted to keep the public informed of their research, which incidentally showed that BSE was in rapid decline. It was (Conservative) ministers who panicked. They believed a costly slaughter pro-

and burning tens of thousands of healthy cattle — would lead to other European states lifting their bans on British beef, bans that had little to do

with health and

everything with Prescott could be sued to the skies for farm protectionism. The ministers not including them with his murder- were wrong. The miscalculation massumption. Since then, nothing has been learnt. Appeasing foreign farmers gets nowhere.
While the politicians half under-

stood the science, they never under-stood the maths. Throughout the affair there has been talk of "small risk", of "probable risk", of "some link. The chairman of the SEAC, John Pattison, peers through his glasses and affirms that, in all honesty and speaking as a scientist, "there is risk". He expects us to cringe at the feet of mighty science, and give him more cash for research. Yet this is not news we can use. We know all food is ingested with some risk to our bodies. The issue is how much risk. And on that subject, all have recourse to vague adjectives and nouns.

Scientists may be good at science but they are often dreadful at English. The consequence is to leave the electric word "risk" all but unqualified, and to leave politicians all at sea. I am sure Dr Cunningham can understand the risk of crossing a

road, driving with alcohol or playing rugby. He can offer the public a warning and remind it of the doctrine of caveat emptor. But a scientific risk qualified only by a diminutive adjective is beyond him — research chemist though he be. His response to the word risk is the word ban.

The American mathematician John Alien Paulos once proposed a logarithmic safety index, to be applied to all stories about safety and risk. His index is based on the logarithm of the ratio of the popula-tion to the particular cause of death. Paulos's index was admirable. Smoking was very risky, with a logarithmic index of 2.9. Driving a car was almost as dangerous (in America) at 3.7. The risk of child kidnap was 6.7, a safety index too high to justify a government in barring children rom going outdoors.

On government figures, the risk of catching nvCJD appears to be 8.8 for beef-eaters and 9 for the nation as a whole. Eating beef must be one of the safest things a person can spend time doing, safer than switching to fish and choking on a bone. Yet the Government has banned it.

uch indicators must be pref-erable to vague references to risk in matters of crime, health and safety. Time was when we attributed many of life's risks to God. We called them Acts of God. Governments now like to play risks. Ministers want their credit in this world, not the next. Risks are regulated, spread, insured against and sued over. Taking a risk is no longer an exercise of free will or responsibility. It is an act of folly from which a fatherly government must protect us.

Yet the worm might be turning. This weekend there is a rush to buy and freeze every T-bone steak and cottail in the land. The public appears not to believe Dr Cunningham's scare-science. It has despaired of this Cabinet of nannies, thumb-suckers and baby-restrainers. It wants to be left to take risks on its own. Perhaps the public is not so bad at maths after

The new Home Secretary, Jack Straw, wants to emulate his Tory predecessor in his enthusiasm for prisons. But who would have thought that Labour's jails would be filled with foxhunting racing drivers, arrested on illegal doorsteps in possession of illegal steaks?

Philip Howard



■ Here's something foul, strange and (naturally) British

his is the season for Gothick Horror, that peculiarly British pleasure. So here is a horror film survival kit for the unwary faced with things on their screens to make Carrie look like Little Women.

1. On no account take a shower with a maniac/spirit/ creature/or anxious young mummy's boy lurking down the passage in motel. In this genne naked escapades ALWAYS end in screams. So resist the urge to put on your birthday suit and frolic when danger is near. Ladies, high heels are not appropriate footwear for getaways from maniacs with knives or a thing arm'd with a rake.

2. When Boris Karioff or his epigoni (less frightening successors) wrapped in rotting mummy cerements stomp down the corridor untering groans, on no account stop to ask them what is

3. Never read from an ancient Sumerian text that summons demons. Even as a joke. If your friends persist in spite of your protests, leave, without making your excuses. You can make new friends. You will need to.

4. If you are running for your life away from a thing/maniac/ monster/demon, expect to trip up and/or fall down at least twice. More if you are female and even partially disrobed. Never turn to look back. If you ignore this rule and do turn round, and do not see the maniac/creature/demon chasing you, stop and run back immediately the way you came. For the thing/allen/cannibal/ psychotic is now in front of you.

5. Listen carefully to the soundtrack for audible hints of what is going on around you but lurks offscreen for the moment. If there is a slow, rhythmic crescendo, swim for your life. If there are screaming violins, it is already too late. Use all re-sources available. Watch the younger members of the audience for signs of imminent hor r. In this genre they are far

you can ever hope to be. 6. When you think that you have killed a maniac/creature/ smiler with a knife, DO NOT check to see if he/she/it is really dead. Keep kebabbing it until it is in pieces small enough not to be a threat to you. Then set it on fire and barbecue it to cinders. This should work with everything except demons and spirits.

7. Horror is a British speciality, now adopted by Hollywood. Gothick Horror, as told by Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker Robert Louis Stevenson and Conan Doyle, can be described as the greatest invention of 19thcentury literature. But it is older. than that. The oldest work of English literature tells how Beowulf kills the amphibious monster, Grendel - and his mother.

8. So if someone in the water starts screaming and is pulled under, do not go after him/her or peer over the edge of the shore (t)wittering what is wrong. Head for the hills. For our horror films have their goose-pimple commonplaces going back to the first stories told around the prehistoric campfire.

MR:

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Furry friend

THIS is a tale of a rat and a Newt. When the Speaker of the House of Representatives swung into London this week, he spent the afternoon, naturally, at London Zoo. There, Newt Gingrich adopted a rat. So enamoured is he by his new per that at dinner at Claridge's on Thursday night he could talk of little but his new Madagascan jumping rat. The furry beast is descended from a pair found on the island by the naturalist Gerald Durrell who was keen to protect the species. Winningly, it is one of the world's largest rodents. Newt might like to know that the giant rat ploughs long deep furrows and

feeds mainly on fallen fruit". "He was so taken with our work, he was late for a meeting with William Hague," says Richard Burge, the 200's Director General. who Newt dragged along to dinner. The Speaker will receive a certificate for his wall, along with a badge and his name on a board by the rat's cage. "He was delighted that we didn't receive government grants." Indeed, at dinner the rightwinger saw wider significance in his adoption, describing it as "exactly the investment we should be encouraging if we are to convince our children that we had a vision for the world" Other guests



included Baroness Thatcher and Ken Clarke, who made disobliging comparisons between Newt and Tory rightwingers, but on this occasion was happily stirred to move a vote of warm thanks.



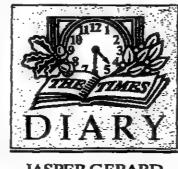
time, with the Chinese but with moles. The last Governor of Hong Kong, who withdrew to his old stone farmhouse in southern France after last summer, has been waking up to find dozens of molehills looming over sa pelouse. He has responded by launching an extermination campaign to ensure therbe can grow unmolested. So vigorous is his assault that he has had little time to write an account of his governorship, let alone plot a return to politics.

CHRIS Patten is at war. Not, this

Wedding gift?

A LANDSCAPE by Winston Chur-chill has been sold for £150,000, a record for a duabing by the old boy. The purchaser was Lord Harris of Peckham, big in carpets and a friend of William Hague, prompting salesroom speculation that the work could be a wedding present for the Tory leader and Flion. The pleasing work, Mimizan, Landes, depicting fields sloping to the shore near Bordeaux was one of Churchill's favourite scenes which he painted in 1927. It went under the

OLD TWES Before Geoffrey Robinson, MP, bought the New Statesman, it distrusted business: "Those who own the means of production make profit from paying people less than they are worth — in Marx's terminology, by exploiting them." (Jan 1996, a month before Robinson took over.)



JASPER GERARD hammer for more than double the

pre-sale price. It would certainly remind Hague that Tory leaders can survive great tribulations.

LIBERALISM has yet to breach the thick oak doors of Peterhouse College, Cambridge. In The Specator. Maurice Cowling, Michael Portillo's former tutor, describes the



"gay and lesbian lobbies" as "rancid and militant".

Roy's own TWO old Yorkshire Labour

friends, David Blunkett and Lord Hattersley, have fallen out - big time. The Education Secretary has complained that the party's former deputy leader is "harassing" him. In a private letter to Alan Rusbridger, Guardian Editor, Blunkett pleads for him to stop publishing Roy's attacks. He says the paper "is rather over-dependent on one voice" and asks for "protection". The animosity stems from Hattersley's defence of Comprehensives. Blunkett favours, in buz lingo, "choice". Roy's attacks are vitriolic, accusing Blunkett of breaking promises. Blunkett wrote attacking Hattersley's "talent for creative prose", prompting Roy to fire back: "I feel only distaste for David Blunkett's political inconstancy." Rusbridger is refusing to bow to Blunkett's request. "It is a perfectly reasonable point of view. just one I happen not to agree with." The war still smoulders.

NEW TIMES SADLY the New Statesman SAULY OB HIM CHARACTER THE PARTY OF T business all virtually a sweatword to many so? called opinion formers? We should be willing business to make profits.



Robin Dutt with Jenny Halpern, offspring of Sir Ralph

PARTY TIMES

SHOOTING and the death of capitalism were exercising David Tang, sociable shaker, at the International Interior Designer of the Year Awards at the V&A. "I'm going to Somerset to shoot pheasant but I fear my hosts may be disappointed," he warned, having shot only twice before. "I'm not a crack shot, more of a crap shot."

Tiger turmoil has made him pessimistic. "Hong Kong is living on borrowed time. It is still the strongest economy in the centre of Asia but it could have only 50 years remaining."

A "style guru", Robin Dutt, arrived with Jenny Halpern, offspring of Sir Ralph. "I'm a dandy in distress," pleaded Dutt. searching for champagne.

Westminster where Andy Roth and Byron Criddle launched. New MPs of 97. They have dog up some awkward information. Mark Oaten, MP, who has won Winchester twice in a year for the Liberal Democrats after the Tories forced a re-run, was more worried about his maiden speech: "You are supposed to praise your predecessor. But as I am him, I feel inhibited."

Reputations were at stake at

Austin Mitchell, MP. was yearning for the past "If was much more fun in opposition All these new female MPs hardly appear in the tea rooms of bars. They stay in their offices instant The Commons has lost its chibbability. And when you visit ministers they sound like Traces - only more polite."

English cuisine a

bit of a mouthful

Sir. How good to read your leading

article. "The English fool" (November

29), in praise of British cooking, I am

glad to say that it has more and more fans on this side of the Channel — not

least the 12,000 or so guests who come

to this embassy every year.

Le Yorkshire Pudding and Le

Crumble have long been favourites, But Welsh Sah Duck, Norfolk Million Pie, Durham Bacon Cakes, Colcan-

non, Edinburgh Fog and Kedgeree go

down a treat too - not to speak of English wine and beer, Scotch and

Northern Irish whisky. Somerset

cider brandy and, of course, our

splendid cheeses. You can now even

buy Stinking Bishop in Paris.

35 Rue du Faubourg St-Honoré,

Sir, The realisation of our national

heritage in the culinary department

still has a long way to go. However, a movement called "Slow Food" -

which is promoting the preparation,

cooking and enjoyment of local food

and local traditions - has a strong fol-

lowing in various European coun-

tries, and is starting to make an

It works through local organisa-

tions (called appropriately "convi-via"). The umbrella organisation,

based in Italy, acts as a clearing house

for ideas and exchanges, and pro-

The movement represents the com-

plete antithesis of fast food. It seeks to

revive local culinary traditions, en-

courage local producers and stimulate

learning about other cultures. Above

all, by encouraging us to take time

and pleasure over preparing and eat-

ing our food, it puts a brake on our

Sir, Your leading article led me to

reflect upon a recent visit to a further

education college in southwest Eng-

land which has a distinguished hotel

and catering department. The head of department, who travels widely in

Europe and Scandinavia, agreed with

me that the best value for money in

Western Europe (and indeed some of

the best cooking) is to be found in Eng-

in this part of the country along the

Welsh Marches, fresh produce and

succulent dishes of selected beef,

Welsh lamb, venison and duckling

cooked traditionally are to be found in

abundance. Much locally brewed

beer and cider provide a perfect

The Coach House, Church Street,

Tenbury Wells, Worcestershire.

increasingly frenetic way of life.

Stoke, Plymouth, South Devon.

devontroll@classic.msn.com

From Professor Emeritus

Yours faithfully.

JEREMY DAVIES.

78 Somerset Place,

Gordon Lawrence

lish pubs.

duces a magazine, Slow.

From Mr Jeremy Davies

Yours sincerely,

British Embassy,

SYLVIA JAY,

75383 Paris.

November 30.

impact here.

From Lady Jay

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

TRUTH AND TRIAL

An unsatisfactory end to the Winnie Mandela affair

After seven hours of personal testimony which followed eight days of evidence from 43 witnesses against her, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela finally faced what passes for the wrath of Archbishop Desmond Tutu. After describing her as a "great person" whom he "loved very deeply", the Chairman of South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission all but begged Mrs Mandela to offer some small signal of contrition. That is exactly what he got. A tiny acknowledgement that "things went wrong" in Soweto during the late 1980s, for which she was indeed "sorry". After that apparent triumph the confused relatives of the various victims of crimes visited by the infamous Mandela United Football Club were pushed in front of the alleged ringmaster for the ritual of reconciliation.

By Mrs Mandela's standards, the very few words of apology obtained constitute relative humility; most witnesses have been dismissed in curt terms. Their accusations were "ludicrous", "lunatic", "hallucinations" and "fabrications". She did not admit any role in the events surrounding the brutal death of 14-year-old Stompie Moeketsi Seipei. She instead offered an alternative explanation for her whereabouts on the day in question which, under cross-examination, collapsed completely. This only fuelled the cocktail of contempt and defiance with which she has conducted her case. At that moment, Archbishop Tutu somehow decided that the interests of truth and reconciliation had been satisfied.

This may well be the end of matters. The commission must now deliberate on the extraordinary events of the past two weeks. It will probably conclude that horrific incidents occurred, but will smother them by reference to the highly charged atmosphere in South Africa during apartheid's last years. It might even implicate Mrs Mandela in slightly stronger terms than did her farcical trial six years ago, which led to a suspended sentence for kidnapping. The archbishop's tribunal is not a court of law. A criminal prosecution would be more appropriate. The South African authorities could take matters into their own hands. But this would be a most unexpected development.

The ANC leaders will nonetheless be very satisfied with the archbishop's work. They had feared that a public forum would allow Mrs Mandela and her supporters to use such intimidation that no serious figures would present themselves. To some degree that concern was justified. There were attempts to discredit certain witnesses and even the relatives of the deceased faced some harassment. On the whole, however, many more offered their testimony than at one stage had seemed possible. The whole drama was broadcast live on South African television. The audience figures, in black slums and white suburbs alike, were enormous. The vast majority of viewers will have drawn their own conclusion.

This means that Mrs Mandela is much less likely to emerge as ANC Deputy President after the party congress later this month. That post would be her springboard to the position of South Arican deputy president in 18 months time. As it is, the damage inflicted will probably be enough to ensure the election of Jacob Zuma — the candidate backed by Nelson Mandela, Most South African citizens and all international investors would doubtless be relieved at this result. The ANC wanted Mrs Mandela discredited, but without a formal trial that could in turn discredit them. They may now get precisely that outcome.

This would be a throughly pyrrhic victory for party and country. Mrs Mandela will continue to exercise a disproportionate political presence. Her mixture of revolutionary rhetoric and race hatred will continue to find a constituency. In any ordinary circumstances where 43 witnesses implicated an individual in murder, kidnapping and torture, a trial would swiftly follow. That is what should happen here. The ANC and Archbishop Tutu still seem willing to pursue a process that will ultimately produce neither the truth nor reconciliation. That should be to their enduring shame.

STEEPLES OF LONDON

Wren's churches still have their part to play in a living City

for a long time is that Sir Christopher Wren's City churches have been saved by the Church of England. As our religion correspondent reported earlier this week, the church authorities have now rejected the 1994 Templeman Commission's recommendation that the number of active churches in the City should be reduced from 36 to 12.

If the decision had gone the other way, the unwanted places of worship might not have been demolished, but many would have been locked and left to moulder. Now they will all remain consecrated, many will become centres of healing and religious education, and a community of monks is coming to live in one of them - probably the great, under-used church of St Sepulchre. just off Holborn Viaduct, whence the pilgrims to Jerusalem once set out.

This should all tempt the great daytime population of the City at least to look at Wren's architectural miracles more closely as they pass. When Wren built them after the Great Fire, of course, those shining new marble steeples rose above the rebuilt houses. In place of the old Gothic spires, soaring up in a single joyous movement, these new steeples took the eye up from a pediment to a parapet with urns, on to a fine octagonal lantern, and from the lantern via a lead spire to a golden ball. It was the new, calm, rational way to Heaven.

In recent years, though, the churches have become practically Gothic again. They lurk

Some of the best news that London has had in the shadows under towering blocks: mysterious, haunting places. They only reveal themselves as monuments to a bright, well-lit religion when you open the door and step (as T. S. Eliot put it) into "inexplicable splendour of Ionian white and gold".

> The initiatives to open those doors more often will include tours pointing out the historical personages associated with them, who will be separated into "Saints and Sinners*. Even St Peter (whose keys to Heaven and Hell can be seen on a weathervane over his church in Cornhill) might have balked at that task, especially when confronted by the shades of such characters as the merry Samuel Pepys. But there are other, less tendentious themes that a City rambler might take un.

> For instance, a recent book, The City Churches of Sir Christopher Wren by Paul Jeffrey, suggests that Wren was much influenced by a visit to Paris he made just before the Fire. He was especially struck by the splendid domes of the Sorbonne and the Val de Grace. So in addition to his stupendous undertaking at St Paul's, he defily introduced domes into some of his new, smaller churches, the finest being at St Stephen's, Walbrook, where the dome is supported inside by 16 columns that dance around the vistor in true Baroque style as he walks about. A search for those domes might give the eye a proper architectural perspective - before the vast Greenwich Dome looms up on the City's horizon.

SCORE WARS

Iran vs America in the real battle of the World Cup

ululated, and men and women, risking the wrath of the religious police, were dancing in the streets when the news came through. As Iran was celebrating its victory over Australia and its qualification for the final round of next year's football World Cup, the crowds learnt that Iran has been drawn to play in the same group as the United States. All the jubilation of the past week has suddenly been focused on one extraordinary encounter: the showdown with Iran's nemesis, the Great Satan. For the past 18 years millions of voices have chanted in unison "Marg bar Amrika" - "Down with America" -- with never a glimpse of an American. Now 11 men from the two countries are pitted against each other, face-to-face, in the mother of all grudge matches.

For once, Iran believes, it has been offered a level playing field. Its own team is supremely confident, hailed as heroes after saving national honour in Melbourne. During a disastrous first half, more than a dozen distraugh! Iranian viewers suffered heart attacks as Australia forged ahead by two goals to nil. But then the fervour that seems the birthright of every Iranian kicked in: in three minutes they scored two goals. The was through to the finals in

The United States, invincible in battle, is patently vulnerable on the pitch. Soccer is not an American game. Despite hosting the 1994 World Cup, the American public is still beholden to the gridiron and the baseball and reser is still in its

Traffic came to a halt, sirens blared, women infancy, with little chance for American players to demonstrate their prowess. No native striker has emerged as an international celebrity.

A boycott is out of the question: with iron rules, Fifa, the international football federation, ensures that he who brings politics on to the pitch pays a lasting penalty. Exclusion from future competitions is a deterrent that has brought together competitors who otherwise stand on the brink of war.

Football is, of course, the pursuit of warfare by other means. In some countries, however, the game has come first and the warfare later. El Salvador went to war with Honduras in 1969, as the two sides attempted to redeem honour in a more explosive way before world referees blew the whistle. A Colombian player who scored an own goal paid with his life: the drug barons who owned the team were so incensed that they had him shot. Tyrants' rage knows no bounds when the goals go the wrong way: both Saddam Hussein and Colonel Gaddafi have waved not only red cards at losing sides, but taken the big stick of reprisals even to the soles of the players' feet.

Maybe the spirit of gamesmanship will fill the stadium when the Iranians and Americans meet. The ritual joust, today's equivalent of challenge by single combat, may do what ping-pong once did for America and China. If so, it will be another victory not only for the world's favourite game, but for those former English public schoolboys who formulated the rules of the new warfare that does not spill blood - too often.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London Et 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Let nature take its final course

From Mrs D. A. Moore

Sir, My husband died yesterday from a cruel illness. Eight days ago he decided that it was time for him to die. agreed with him. Had euthanasia been lawful (letters, December 1) we would have availed ourselves of it immediately. As it was not, we felt that we had no choice but to allow nature to take its course.

The result was that my husband had several days which, as he confirmed in conscious moments, were perfectly comfortable although of no practical use to him. However for me, and our young children, these same days allowed us to nurse him and show him love and care, and fully to realise that the time had indeed come and we were all at peace with it.

Had my husband and I had our earlier wish, our children would not have had this opportunity to show that love, which I have no doubt will stand them in good stead in the future. Even if the patient is merely passive, great good can come from the goodness it elicits in others.

Yours faithfully, DINAH MOORE, c/o Messrs Parker Bullen (solicitors). 45 Castle Street, Salisbury, Wiltshire. December 1.

From Professor Lord Alton of Liverpool

Sir, Mr Joe Ashton, MP (letter, December 1), claims that his Doctor Assisted Dying Bill is needed because "the law lacks clarity and is ambiguous". Yet only a week ago a govern-ment minister, Lord Williams of Mostyn, said the law was not "difficult or

Mr Ashton's Bill would commission doctors and nurses to preside over their patients' deaths. For him to claim that his Bill is "not about outhanasia" amply demonstrates where the confusion lies.

The Voluntary Euthanasia Society is waging a systematic and expensive campaign, using all the old ploys of hard cases, euphemism, and promises of two doctors required to sign forms of authorisation. Thirty years and five million abortions have shown to what enormities these arguments lead.

In Holland, the Remmelink Commission, established in 1990 by the Dutch Attorney-General, found in one recent year, of 3,300 euthanasia deaths, 1,030 involved patients who had made no such "voluntary" request. Compulsion and pressure are never far behind the voluntary arrangements which Mr Ashton has in mind.

The British Medical Association well understands this, and has trenchantly held euthanasia to be morally, legally and medically unacceptable. Parliament should ensure that it remains that way.

Yours faithfully, DAVID ALTON, House of Lords. December I.

From Dr S. Hasan

Sir, My organisation, Islamic Concern, supports all campaigners against euthanasia and also endorses Cardinal Basil Hume's article, "The death of trust" (November 27).

We believe that any doctor who deliberately ends the life of a parient, even at that patient's request, betrays his profession, his oath, God and all religions. Such action is against the welfare of any patient in this life and in the afterlife

To help to reduce such requests from sick people, we need to publicise and expand the hospice movement, work on relationships to grow close family ties and make every patient loved and wanted by the family. society, the NHS and the State. All medical technology should be used to relieve pain. Only God, the Creator of all, is the owner of life and only He

will decide about its end. Islamic Concern is to campaign against Mr Joe Ashton's Bill, which he is introducing to Parliament on December 10.

Yours faithfully, SUHAIB HASAN (Religious Adviser). Islamic Concern, 31 North Circular Road, N13.

From Mrs M. Campbell-Preston

Sir, The Reverend Dr John Searle (letter, December I) rightly says that it is not in a person's best interest to use methods to prolong dying and "it was this principle which the courts applied to Tony Bland", the Hillsborough football disaster victim. The fact is Mr Bland was not dying. Although apparently without awareness, he could breathe unaided and there was reflex reaction to painful stimuli.

The High Court ruled that treatment, and this included nourishment via a gastric tube, could be withdrawn. But it seems illogical to call nourishment a treatment, as it cures no medical condition. Food and fluids are essential to maintain life and without t'iem we die.

Tony Bland was not dying until the feeding tube was removed and he was denied nourishment. A legal ruling sanctioned the death by starvation of a hospital patient. This cannot have been in the patient's best interest.

Yours faithfully MARGARET CAMPBELL

PRESTON (SRN, 1947-55). I Bishop's Way, Stradbroke, Eye, Suffolk December 4.

Isaacs replies to Kaufman charges

From Sir Jeremy Isaacs

Sir, Gerald Kaufman's committee makes two charges against me and colleagues (reports and leading article. December 4: letters, December 5). He is critical of plans for closure, and of the alleged absence of financial information and of management systerns at the Royal Opera House.

Closure first. Though I did not finalise them. I take full responsibility for the House's plans for the closure period, and for the decision that the two companies play in various venues. Though the committee paid it 100 little attention, the fact is that there was no single, affordable theatre, or other venue, available to ROH as a fixed base.

We surveyed, costed, sought to negotiate for every possible suitable site in London. They are few. The Lyceum option cost £7 million more than we knew we could afford; we would have been able to give fewer perfor-

mances in it than we give now. It has been a stickyish start, but even at Labatt's Apollo in Hammersmith the Royal Ballet played to the equivalent of 25 completely sold-out performances at Covent Garden. Eighty per cent audiences have enjoyed opera at the Barbican, the Shaftesbury and the Royal Albert Hall. It is too early to judge performance overall in the 27-month closure period.

The Kaufman committee makes a more serious charge: that the House operated without financial information or system of management. This is totally false. Anyone who saw the BBC Television series The House at the beginning of 1996 will remember the hard time board members

gave the executive over identified overspends (though each incidentally was recouped). The board had ammunition: detailed, accurate information made available at finance committee, at senior management, at subsidiary and at main board meetings. What the select committee has done

is confuse the current genuine difficulty of forecasting forward income in the novel circumstance of closure with supposed absence of regular management accounts. But of course these existed. They set out, each month, income earned, cost incurred, and every variation from budget (which helped us balance the books most years, and launch and control the development).

To suggest so emphatically that this information was not provided casts a wholly unwarranted slur on me, on two dedicated chairmen, on two capable finance directors, on a firstclass chief accountant, and an able acting finance director, on our men-culous auditors, KPMG, who noted no such deficiency, and on Arts Council officers who are supposed to have connived in this imaginary black

Kaufman signalled his intentions in his first remarks from the committee's chair and confirms them in his article in this week's Spectator, flagged "What I've got against Covent Gar-den". But the House will, somehow, come through.

Yours sincerely. JEREMY ISAACS (General Director. Royal Opera House, 1988-97). Jeremy Isaacs Productions, 8 Shelton Street, WC2. December 5.

Opera's future

From Lord Gibson

Sir, Continental opera houses are more heavily subsidised than our own because they have for several hundred years been considered an essential part of national culture, in a way which has begun to develop here only in the last fifty. If we want opera houses at inter-

national standards, developing the art of opera as well as playing the popular repertoire at popular prices, they now. In mainland Europe this is not grudged. Here it has yet to be If it is ever to be accepted, the facts

need to be understood. In the absence of continental-type subsidy, seat prices have to be high, leading to charges of "elitism" which in turn endanger even existing levels of subsidy.

The Arts Council grant has declined in real terms for five years. Thus finance and management problems deriving from the close-down period are irrelevant in the longer term.

Sir Richard Eyre is to report as I understand it, essentially on what kind of opera and ballet we can have for our money. But without more money, whatever management changes are introduced, one of our opera houses will have to go - to my

mind an absurd and unnecessary tragedy.

It would certainly be absurd to

make important changes until his report can be considered. Yours etc.

(Chairman, Arts Council, 1972-77; Board member, Royal Opera House, 1977-87) 4 Swan Walk, SW3. December 4.

From the Secretary of State

Sir. Edwina Currie - with a typically sublime disregard for accuracy claims (letter, December 5) that I "fail to pay tribute" to the English National

On the contrary, I have the highest possible regard for ENO; and an absolute precondition of Richard Eyre's consideration of the future of lyric theatre in London is the maintenance of the company's artistic integrity and distinctiveness.

Any proposal for the future that failed to do that would certainly not get my support.

Yours sincerely, CHRIS SMITH, Department for Culture, Media and Sport, 2-4 Cockspur Street, SWI. December 5.

Tax-free investment

From Mr Dean R. Pope

Sir. A point not mentioned in your report today, "How to keep invest-ments tax-free", is that if an individual invests in an offshore account, such as in the Channel Islands, and then dies, his personal representatives will have to obtain a grant of probate or, if he died intestate, a grant of letters of administration, not only in England but also in the Channel Islands, to enable the money to be returned to this country. This will usually involve the deceased's estate in an expense of several hundred pounds.

I wonder if financial institutions recommending offshore investment are mentioning the costs that will be incurred after death in obtaining a second grant to enable the return of the funds.

From my experience many relatives believe their deceased family member did not receive any advice at the time of investment on this point.

Yours faithfully. DEAN R. POPE (Solicitors' probate manager), § Doubletrees, St Blazey Gate, Par, Cornwall. December 3.

Sir. Are we as a nation to be ruled by lottery? I see that our personal future financial arrangements, or Isas, are to have a £1,000 monthly draw built in

(report, December 4). Furthermore, I now realise that my decision ten years ago to opt for Peps rather than AVCs (additional voluntary contributions) for my pension arrangements (a practice subsequently recommended by numerous financial advisers), was a lottery. I lost; with AVCs, I would, at least, have the tax relief on the contributions in the bag.

Now that retroactive taxation seems to be an established government principle, could the Government please let me know now how I can, well into the final decade of my working life, plan to supplement effectively the pitiful pension I am expecting to draw from my company pension scheme?

Yours (a prudent middle-class, hoping to have more than £50,000 invested when I retire, voter). B. W. CHANTER, 35 Tiverton Road. Potters Bar, Hertfordshire. December 4.

Weekend Money letters, page 61

sergeant, asking why a Middle East-

ern student next to him had been left

to sleep undisturbed for over an hour.

The colour sergeant, an enormous

Scots Guardsman and veteran of the

Falklands campaign two years pre-

viously, replied that it was "Quite

simple if you think about it, Sir. I'll bet

you a penny to a pinch of . . . that we'll

be fighting them in five years' time, so

I do not know whether he found

himself out in the Gulf some six years

later, but a number of my fellow

Letters should carry a daytime

the less they know the better!"

cadets certainly did.

Sandhurst gifts

From Mr T. J. Martin

Sir. The allegations of Sandhurst instructors receiving excessive gifts from students (report. November 29) are rather sad and, I hope, untrue. I only ever remember an overseas

cadet being singled out for special treatment once. It was during a lecture in the Woolwich Hall. These periods were considered by the cadets to be an excellent opportunity to catch up on much-needed sleep.

The hall was warm and dark and most succumbed, particularly if the lecture was after lunch. It was the job Yours etc. T. J. MARTIN. Shelley Dairy. of each platoon colour sergeant to Shelley, Ipswich, Suffolk. ensure their charges stayed awake December 2. and, consequently, most lectures were accompanied by the sound of gentle snoring and the occasional clack of a pace stick being tapped on a cadet's

telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046. After one particularly turgid lecture, a cadet complained to our colour e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk_

From Mr B. W. Chanter

Oaths of allegiance

From Lord Beloff

accompaniment

GORDON LAWRENCE.

Yours etc.

December I.

Sir, Professor Keith Kyle's letter today betrays a confusion of thought surprising in so distinguished a writer.

What Charles Bradlaugh objected to in the oath of allegiance was its religious foundation, unacceptable to one of his beliefs. The problem was mer by giving the alternative of "affirmation". just as previously the words "the true faith of a Christian" had been deleted in order to allow a professing Jew to sit in the House of Commons.

What Messrs Adams and McGuinness object to is not the form of the oath but that it pledges those who take it to uphold the Constitution of the United Kingdom of which the monarch is the symbol. Since to be a Member of the House of Commons means taking part in the constitutional process, accepting the validity of that process must surely be a condition of par-

Would the Americans open the doors of the White House to a President-elect who refused to swear to uphold the Constitution of the United

Yours truly. BELOFF. House of Lords. December 4.

In for a penny

From Mr Nicolas Heslop

Sir, MPs apparently "fell about" at the Prime Minister's description of the Liberal Democrats' tax and spend plans as "the longest p in history" (Political Sketch, December 4), However, this is not the first occasion that the House of Commons has heard such a play on words.

On February 5 last, Robin Squire, the then Schools Minister, told the House that "never was a penny spent more often than during a Liberal Democrat speech."

Yours faithfully. NICOLAS HESLOP 133 Barden Road, Tonbridge, Kent. December 5.



COURT CIRCULAR

Order of the Thistle.

The Earl of Airlie KT (Lord

Chamberlain) was present at Heathrow Airport, London, this

morning upon the Departure of

The President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Senhora

Cardoso and bade farewell to His

Excellency and Senhora Cardoso on behalf of The Queen.

Laurence RN. this morning de-parted Peru for Paraguay. Her Royal Highness this after-

noon arrived in Asunción, Para-

guay, and was received by Señora

Teresa Carrasco de Wasmosy (wife

The Princess Royal later visited the Centro Anglo Paraguayo.

Her Royal Highness afterwards

risted the Education Centre for Young Adults, Caacupe-Mi, The Princess Royal sub-sequently visited the Albino Luis

Home for abandoned mentally handicapped children. Asunción.

This evening Her Royal High-ness was entertained to Dinner by

The President of the Republic of

of The President).

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 5: The Princess Royal accompanied by Captain Timothy

BUCKINGHAM PALACE December 5: The President of the Federative Republic of Brazil and Senhora Cardosu, with the Brazilian Suite in attendance, left Buckingham Palace this morning upon the conclusion of the State Visit to The Queen and The Duke

of Edinburgh.
The President drove to Great George Street Conference Centre. London SWI, where His Ex-

cellency held a Press Conference.
His Excellency Mr Philip Lader
was received in audience by The Queen and presented the Letters of Recall of his predecessor and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador from the United States of America to the Court of St James's. Mrs Lader was also received by

Her Majesty. Sir John Kerr (Permanent Under-Secretary of State for For-eign and Commonwealth Affairs)

The President of the European Parliament (Mr Jose Maria Gil-Robles Gil-Delgado) was received by Her Majesty.
The Lord Mackay of Clashfern

was received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the Insignia of a Knight of the Most Ancient and Most Noble

Today's royal

Sunderland **High School**

engagement The Duchess of Gioucester, pa-tron, National Association for Gifted Children, will attend a concert to mark the 30th anniversary of the association, at Trinity College of Music, Mandeville Place, London WI, at 5.25. Young Old

Millhillians

The IW7 Annual Young Old Millhillians Club Christmas Even will be held at Brown's Hotel London, on Tuesday. December 16. President of the Club, Bill Skinner, will be Guest of Honour Tickets are available from the Club Secretary on 0181 959 0816.

Ball

British-Italian Society

The Italian Ambassador and Signora Galli were the guests of honour at a Ball held by the British-Italian Society at the Savov Hotel last night. Sir Patrick Fairweather, the Society's chairman. presided.

Paraguay at Mburuvicha Roga.

The Council of The Church Schools Company is pleased to announce the appointment of Dr Angela Slater as Head of Sunderland High School with effect from September 1998, to succeed Miss harlotte Rendle-Short following her appointment as Deputy Chief Executive of The Church Schools Company. Dr Slater is currently Head of Russian. Social Service and dealings with universities at Eton College.

Dinner

Staffordshire Lieutenancy Mr James Hawley, Lord-Lieuten-ant of Staffordshire, was entertained at dinner last night at the County Buildings, Stafford, by the Deputy Lieutenants. Colonel D.J.K. German, Vice Lord-Lieutenant, presided.

University news Stirling: Dame Diana Rigg will

succeed Lord Ballour of Burleigh as Chancellor of the university from August I, 1998.

Service dinner

ist Regiment RHA Past and present members of 1st Regiment Royal Horse Artillery held their annual Reunion Dinner in Woolwich last night. Major General M.T. Tennant. CB. Honorary Regimental Colonel, presided. Field Marshal Lord Vincent of Coleshill, Master Gunner St James's Park, was the principal

Luncheons

Institute of United States Studies Mr Newt Gingrich, Speaker of the American House of Repre-sentatives, was the principal guest at a luncheon of the Institute of United States Studies held yesterday in Lincoln's Inn. Baroness Thatcher. LG, OM, FRS, chair-man of the institute, presided. Mr Robert Worcester and Lord Rees-Mogg also spoke. Among others

The Ambassador of Bahrain. Lord Woolf, Mr Conrad Black, Mr William Cash. MP, Mrs Martanne Gingrich, Professor Gary McDowell. Professor Kenneth Minogue. Mr John Wood and Mrs Sally McNulty.

Saints and Sinners Club Mr John Major, MP, was the guest of honour at the Saints and Sinners Christmas luncheon held yesterday at the Savoy Hotel. Mr Jimmy Tarbuck, chairman, and Mr Neil Benson, honorary secretary, also spoke.

Reception

Royal Shakespeare Company The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress, accompanied by the Sheriffs and their ladies, attended a buffet supper and reception held last night at the Barbican Centre to mark the close and productive relationship between the Corporation of London and the Barbican Theatre. Sir Geoffrey Cass. Chairman of the Royal Shakespeare Theatre Trust, was the host. A performance of Hamlet was held afterwards. Ambassadors, High Commissioners, past and present Masters of City Livery Companies. representatives of City Institutions. Aldermen, members of the Court of Common Council and heads of British and Overseas banks were among the guests.

Appointments

Assembly of Western European Mr Colin Cameron has been elected as the first British Clerk of the Parliamentary Assembly of the

Western European Union from July 1, 1998. Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh Professor James Colquhoun Petrie has been elected President of the Royal College of Physicians of

Edinburgh. Professor David Hamilton Lawson has been elected



announced their engagement

Weekend anniversaries

TODAY: BIRTHS: King Henry VI, reigned 1422-61 and 1470-71, Windsor, 1421; Warren Hastings, 1st Governor-General of India, Churchill, Oxfordshire, 1732; Str Osbert Sitwell, writer, London, 1892; Ira Gershwin, composer,

DEATHS: Jean Baptiste Chardin. painter, Paris, 1779; Joseph Black, chemist, Edinburgh, 1799; Anthony Trollope, novelist, London, 1882; Jean Blanc, socialist and historian, Cannes, 1882; Jefferson Davis, President of the Confederate States in the American Civil War 1861-65, New Orleans, 1899; Ernst Werner von Siemens, en-gineer, Berlin, 1892; Roy Orbison, ringer, Nashville, Tennessee, 1988. Today is the feast day of St Nicholas, patron saint of youth, popularly known as Santa Claus.

Christopher Columbus discovered Hispaniola, now Haiti and the Dominican Republic, 1492. The Irish Free State was pro-

TOMORROW: BIRTHS: Gian Bernini, sculptor, Naples, 1598; Allan Cunningham, writer, Keir, Dumfriesshire, 1784; Sir Redvers Buller, VC, general, Crediton, Devon, 1899; Sir Joseph Cook, Prime Minister of Australia 1913-14. Silverdale, Staffordshire, 1860; Pietro Mascagni, composer, Leg-horn, 1863; Willa Cather, novelist, Winchester, Virginia, 1873; Rudolf Friml. composer, Prague, 1879; Stuart Davis, painter, Philadelphis. 1894.

DEATHS: Marcus Tullius Cicero, Roman orator and statesman executed, Formia, Italy, 43 BC; Meindert Hobberna, landscape London, 1817; John Flaxman, sculptor, London, 1826; Edward Irving, founder of the Holy Catholic Apostolic Church, Glasgow, 1834; Vicomte Ferdinand de Lesseps, promoter of the Suez Canal, La Chenaie, Belgium, 1894: Kir-sten Flagstad, soprano, Oslo, 1962; Thornton Wilder, novelist and dramatist, New Haven, Connecti-cut, 1975; Robert Graves, poet and novelist, Deya, Majorca, 1985. The Theatre Royal. Covent Garden (now the Royal Opera House), opened, 1732.

painter, Amsterdam, 1709; Michel Ney, commander of Napoleon's

Old Guard, shot for high treason,

Parls, 1815; William Bligh, ad-miral, Captain of HMS Bounty,

William Pitt the Younger, aged 24, became the youngest British Prime

Forthcoming marriages

Mr J.R. Baldwin and Miss N.E. Langridge The engagement is announced between Jonathan Robert, son of Mr and Mrs William Baldwin, of Kenilworth, Warwickshire, and Nicola Elisabeth, daughter of Mr and Mrs Roger Langridge, of Winson, Gloucestershire.

Mr R.J. Folia: and Miss R.K.A. Rigby The engagement is announced between Robert, son of Mr and Mrs John Fisher, of Sittingbourne, Kent, and Rachael, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Noel Rigby, of

Mr A.I.G. Lawson-Dick

The engagement is announced between Andrew, elder son of Mr and Mrs Charles Lawson-Dick, of Owston, Leicestershire, and Sallyann, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Betts, of Davenham,

Mr D.S. Noble and Miss A.L.V. Golley The engagement is announced between David, youngest son of Mr and Mrs William Noble, of Boston, Massachusetts, and Lou-ise, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Alastair Golley, of Dinas Powis, Vale of Glamorgan.

Mr R.A.B. Smith and Miss A. Kempton The engagement is announced between Richard, second son of Mr and Mrs Alastair Smith, of Great Bridgeford, Staffordshire, and Annie, youngest daughter of Mr and Mrs Colin Kempton, of

and Miss E.R. Frank and Miss E.R. Frank
The marriage will take place on
Saturday, July 4, 1995, at 3pm, at
St Andrew's Church, Greystoke,
Combria, of Mr Phillippe Justin
Weinhold, son of Mr and Mrs A.J.
Weinhold, and Miss Emma Rachel Frank, daughter of Canon and Mrs R.P.H. Frank. Mr G.P. Weldon

and Miss S.K. le Huray between Guy, younger son of Mr and Mrs Patrick Weldon, of London, and Sarah London, and Sarah, daughter of the late Dr Peter iz Huray and of Mrs Bridget le Huray, of Cambridge.

Marriages

Mr I.R. Bowker and Miss S. McLeod The marriage took place on Fri-day, December 5, in Macclesfield, Cheshire, between Mr Ian Bowker, son of Mr and Mrs Robert Bowker, of Heaton Moor. Cheshire, and Miss Seona McLeod, daughter of Professor and Mrs David McLeod, of Woodford, Cheshire.

A dinner dance was held at

Shrigley Hall. Pott Shrigley and the honeymoon will be spent in Singapore and the Maldives. Mr J.R.E. Warburton and Mrs P.J. Ottewell

After a service on Friday. December 5, 1997, at St Margaret's, Lothbury, to celebrate the mar-riage of John Warburton and Pamela Onewell, a luncheon was held at the Armourers' Hall before they departed for the Far East.

Army 6th Form Scholarships

The following have been awarded Army Scholarships for eventual entry to RMA Sandhurst:

James Beazley, Haileybury Coll; James Berry, Lutterworth Gram-mar S; Armabel Bonas, Oxford High School; Jonathan Buckley, Portsmouth Grammar S; Edward Button, Harrow School: Christopher Charnley, Monmouth School: Christopher Crauford,-Haileybury Coll: Simon Cross, Sedbergh School: Edward Dannatt, Harrow School: Witton De St John-Pryce, Stonyhurst Coll; Lucy Edwards, The Hulme Grammar S; Thomas Falkus, Latymer Upper School; Bond Faulkner, Pare's Grammar S; Ian Poster. Rendcomb Coll; Timothy Gard-ner, Magdalen Coll School: Harry Hadden-Paton, Eton Coll; Robert Hamilton, Aylesbury Grammar S; Sarah Hammond, Stockport Grammar, S; Anthony Harris, Adams Grammar S; Jonathan Harris, Cranleigh School; Slobhan Hill, Queen Elizabeth School Bar-net: Robert Hoey, Sherborne School; Benjamin Horan, The

John Fisher School, Surrey; Thomas Huitson, King Edward VI School, Southampton: Marie Hunston, Penistone Grammar S. Sheffield; Katherine Ivan-Duke, Newcastle under Lyme School; Robert Jeffs, Kent Coll, Canter-bury; Richard Leigh-Wood, Har-row School; Lifa Lewis, Christ's Hospital, Horsham; James Lyon, Stowe School; Nicholas Mantell, Bedford School: Andrew Muir, St Peter's School, York; David Noad, Harrow School; Thomas Oakley, Harrow School; Thomas Oakley, Harrow School; Thomas Odlier, Farnborough VI Form Coll; Adrian Pask, Stamford School, Lincolnshire: Caroline Smith, Sydenham High School; Nicholas Tobin, Eton Coll; Steven Turnicilie, The Oratory School, Reading: Benjamin Walker, Cheltenham Bournside School: Henry Waller, Duke of York's Royal Military School: Christopher Warner, Queen Elizabeth's Grammar S, Derbyshire: James Westropp, Sherhome School: Hannah Wyke, West Buckland



Weekend birthdays

Lord Ashley of Stoke, CH, 75; the Right Rev Patrick Barry, former Abbot of Ampleforth, 80; Mr Dave Brubeck, musician, 77: Vice-Admiral Sir John Cadell, 68: Lord Clinton-Davis, 69: Air Marshal Sir. John Curtiss. 73: Lord Emsile. 78: Mr Gerry Francis, footballer, 46: Mr Derek Hill artist 81: Mr Jonathan King, broadcaster, 53: Mrs Helen Liddell, MP, 47: Sir Richard Lloyd, former chairman, Vickers, 69: Sir Nicholas Lyell.

The Right Rev Eric Mercer, former Bishop of Exerer. 80: Sir George Pinker, former Surgeon-Gynaecologist to The Queen. 73: Lord Porter of Luddenham, OM. FRS. 77: Mr Alastair Ross Goobey, chief executive, Hermes Pensions Management, 52: Sir Bryan Thwaites, former Principal, Westfield College, 74; Mr Charles Vance, director and theatrical producer, 68; the Right Rev Peter Walker, former Bishop of Ely, 78; Mr Peter Willey, cricketer,

TOMORROW: Sir Fred Atkinson, former civil servant, 78; Mr Roy Avery, former

Headmaster, Bristol Grammar School. 72: Viscount Boyd of Merton. St. Ju gan, 65: Mr David Evans, trade unionist, 62: Mr Kaffe Fassett, textile designer, 60: Professor Lawrence Freedman. FBA, war his torian. 49; Professor Sir Abraham Goldberg, physician, 74; Professor Gowar, Principal, Royal Holloway University of London. 57; Dr A.J. Higgins, director, Animal Health Trust, Newmarket 49; Sir Bryan Hopkin, former civil servant, 83; Mr Chris Joynt, rugby league player, 36; Mr Victor Kiam. chairman and chief executive of Reer, Remington Products Com-pany, 71: the Countess of Limerick, a2: Sir Sydney Samuelson, British Film Commissioner, 72: Mr Roger J. Taylor, executive deputy chair man. Sun & Sun Alliance Insurance Group, 56; the Rev R.C.Trounson, former Principal, St Chad's College, Durham, 71: Mr Eli Wallach, actor, 82: Miss Helen

ROY ORBISON Roy Orbison, the American pop singer whose

melodramatic ballads were a feature of hit parades around the world in the early 1960s. died on December 6, aged 52, in Tennessee, after a heart attack. Orbison possessed an extraordinarily powerful voice, usually to be heard expressing

hades of anguish in such songs as Only The Lonely, Running Scared and It's Over, In the early days of rock 'n' roll, among a generation of youthful performers who became as notorious for their hip-swivelling gyrations as for their singing. Orbison was the exception: his absolute immobility on stage emphasized the intense introspection of his songs. Later on, any audience's response was coloured also by an awareness of the genuine tragedies which had beset him, including the accidental deaths

of his first wife and two of his sons.
He enjoyed to an unusual degree the respect and affection of succeeding generations of pop stars, many of whom acknowledged his influence. That peer-group admiration took a tangible form recently when, more than 20 years after his heyday, Orbison re-emerged as a member of the Traveling Wilburys, an ensemble whose fictional identity also cloaked the presence of Bob Dylan and George Harrison. Their album is currently in the US

ON THIS DAY

December 6, 1988

A STATE OF

Roy Orbison's influence was acknowledged by generations of pop stars. The genuine tragedies that beset his life affected his songs and his audiences response to them

Born in Vernon, Texas on April 23, 1936; Roy Kelton Orbison was taught to play the guitar by his father, an oil-field worker, at the age of the Tun ware later he made his radio debut; six. Two years later he made his radio d he was 14 when he joined the first of his bands. He did not come to national prominent until 1956 under the auspices of Sun Records of Memphis, Tennessee, the company which had launched Elvis Presley's career . . .

Unable to fit comfortably into the con-ventional Memphis rockabilly mould, in which young white singers such as Presley and Jerry Lee Lewis took their inspiration from the rhythm and blues idiom of their black neighbours. Orbison moved across the state to lashville and concentrated on developing a

more original style, closer in tone to country music. In 1956, the Everly Brothers' recording of one of his compositions Claudette, dedicate to his first wife, became a hit.

In 1960 his own recording career took off, with his second release for the Monument label. Only The Lonely set a lasting pattern; its gaunt, deliberate mood contrasted strongly with the prevailing patterns of white pop-music, which by that time mostly divided into francic rockers and drippy high-school ballads. In that first bit, as in Blue Angel, Running Scared and In Dreams, Orbison expressed teenage emotions with a rare dignity. On Prenty an, which topped the charts in 1964 found him stepping outside his normal character into a more cheerful mood.

Orbison toured widely during the early Sixtles, often sharing a bill with the Beatles. In 1966, though, Claudette Orbison died in a motorcycle accident while they were on their way home from a drag-race meeting. They had just remarried, after a brief divorce. Two years later, while Orbison was on tour in Britain, two of his three sons were killed in a fire which

destroyed his Tennessee lakeside ranch. In the late Stories he was largely forgotten. Not until the emerging Bruce Springsteen paid a prominent tribute in 1975, in the opening lines of a song called Thunder Road, did he reenter the collective consciousness . . .



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PERSONAL COLUMN

AMERICAN CO. December 5th at the John Endcliffe Hospital, Oxford, to Solia (née Franz) and Thuothy, a daughter, Entherine Alice. daughter, anterna de l'accepte 30th at Hinchingbrooke Hospital, to Victoria (née Mansell) and Brian, a beautiful daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, a sister for James.

Robert, a daughter, Annabelle Margore, Molte On December 4th to Claire (née Dennis) and Andrew, a daughter, Katle, a sister to Lucy and William.

sister to Lucy and William.

BOVS-STONES On 5th
Decamber 1977 at Houless
General Hospital, to Dawn
and Francis, a son, Claude
Francis, a brother for Poppy.

Elittud On 10th November 1997, to Sandy (nee
Rowsell) and Oliver, a son,
julius William Andrew, a
horoter for Annabal

FURSE - On Decamber 3ed at
Cheltenham General
Hospital, to Jane (nee
Eddison) and Duncan, a
wonderful son, George
Alexander Duncan.

GOWERS - On October 19th, to
Emily (nee Thomas) and
Timothy, a daughter,
Madeline Mangaret, a sister
for john and Etchard.

GREGOWY - On 25th Norman at Huddersfield Royal Infirmary, to Jane (née Todd) and Tim, a daughter, Junton Helen

January Helen

Historium T. Or December

2 nd. to Francesca (née
Darvell) and Martin, a
daughter, Sastin Generium

Borrell, a sister for Imogen

EACDOMAID - HICHARAM - On
December 1st, to lames and
Julia, a son, Angen Anthony.

ASCARLI - On 4th December

at St james's, Leeds, to
Androula and Barry, a son,
Christopher Andreas.

Brussels, to Dominique (née de Bellefroid) and Tim, a daughter, Zephyr Leonora, s

Watts, opera singer. 70.

SALMM - On December 5th 1997, to Georgina (née Bates) and Gerard, a son, Gerard Edward Henry Ned', a brother for Matilda. SCHECKTER - On 4th December at The Portland Hospital, to Clare (née Fawkes) and Jody, a daughter, Ha Maxime, a bossy little sister for Toby and Tomas, Hugo and Freddia.

The Portland Hospital, to Bradley and Donne, a son,

RUBY ANNIVERSARIES

December 1957, at the Church of St. Philip and St. James, Clifton, York, Kenneth George Walker to Recommend Wendover, Brothermelites

DEATHS

BOWES - Dr. Charles Henry Gordon K.St.J. on 3rd December peacefully in hoppels ware about lines, dearly loved husband of the late Brenda (née Todd), dearly loved brother of Lemma. Service to be built in 5t Cuthberts Church, Marton, Middlesbrough on Wednesday 10th December at 1.45 pm followed by cremation, to which all friends are respectfully invited, Family filowest only. Denaitions if insing so The Reitish Heart Foundation of Mr A.J. Barker, Penn Fields, Newton, Cleveland T59 6QR.

DEATHS

CADWALLADER - Rohin John, peacefully at home on 1st December 1997 aged 54 years. Funeral Service at 11.45 am on Friday 12th December at the United Reformed Church, St John's Hill, Sevencaks. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired to Hospice in the Weald of Funcis Chappell & Sons, 27 London Read, Sevencaks, teh (01721) 450203.

COMMER - William Louis Mountifort, died pescefully on December 3rd 1997, after a short filmes, Much loved husband of Chérie, father of Patrick and Judi, and gamifather of Anna, Louis, Harriet, Jack and Toby. Funenal Service at 2 pm on Thumbry 11th December at St Michael and All Angels, Beth Ecad, London W4.

cooke - Mangaret Mc Even (née Preston) (ESc Hons) died 30th November 1997 aged 72. Daughter of the late Professor George Franca (E Andrews). She will be sadly puissed by her son Don and daughter (Maryjane).

DAWSOM - Christabel Maud aged 93 years, sain of Dainy, peacefully in her sleep at the 0st Ball Furning Home. Halton Holegate, on 3rd December 1997. The funeral service and burial will take place at Delby Church at 2 pm on Wednesday 10th Lacamier. All flowers and enquiries to A. Smith & Son Funeral Directors, Raithby Hill, Haudleby, Spligby. enquiries of A Smits & Son Famenal Directors, Enithly Hill, Hundleby, Spileby, Lines. PE23 5NH, telt (01790) 753534 day or (01790) 753522 evenings.

EVERS - Joanna on December
4th peacefully at Pendean
Nursing Home, Michinet, in
her 95ml year. Beloved wife
of the lare Jack and dear
mother of Valentine and
Juliet and general Service to be held at St
John's Church, Eury on
Friday 12th December at
2.30 pm.

panestully on December 4th 1997 after an illness, peloved wife of the late flames & Gambion loving days of the late flames & Gambion loving days of warmy facility of the late of Man at 1.20 pm wednesday 10th December Family flowers only please. Donations to Fets Aid League c/o Mrs Bird, 5 Larivane Close, Andreas, inle of Mrs.

printing of the large of the large of Freshury and Mrs. Jacob of the late Lord Harvey of Freshury and Mrs. Jacob of Freshury and Mrs. Jacob of Freshury and Mrs. Jacob of Freshury Peneral St. Mary's Parish Church, Chipsell, Resea, Wotherstey December 16th at 2 pm. All sequicies and fireways. In Jacob of the Mrs. Jacob

Donations, if desired, to National Gurden Scheine, Kent Branch C/O KR Sills, Keawood, High Street, Cambook, TN17 3DT, tel: (01580) 712284.

Kenyon, (0171) 834-4624.

MELL Rath, beloved wife of the late Roly, mother of Ann and William, passed gway peacefully at St Mary's Hospital, Bristol, on December 3rd, Private family cremation followed by Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary's Church, Thornbury, near Bristol, Wednesday December 17th at 3 pm. Donations for Cheshire Homes c/o E. Davies & Son, 381 Gloncester Road, Horfield, Ristol RS7 STM.

passed as of the lady on 2nd December 1997 aged 37 peacefully after long illness bravely endured. Private family funeral, followed by Memorial Service at 8t Mary's Church, Conditures at a date to be amnounced, no flowers by request. Donations, if desired, to National Gerden Scheine, Year Reach of R & Sills.

(NAYE - Beverly Kay, much hved these of Medica Charles of Medica C

peacefully in hospital of Plawsworth, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham, Hugh Kiron T.D. Di. and Knight of the Order of St John, in his Erm, year, lavther of the land Regy, Bothet and Mary and dear uncle to Isobel, Robert, Parsick and their humilist. Friends please meet for service at Chester-le-Street Parish Church on Toesday 9th Documber at 920 am, followed by cremation at Durham, Pamily flowers and processing the St. Penns Ambulance of Religion Rosewary and Ending Durham Industrial Estate, Durham Industrial Estate, Durham Chy, DET MEG.

MAGUISE - Captain T.D. Royal Engineers of London, Engineers of London Lo

MELLORS - Betty on 3rd December 1997, at Wimbledon Parkside Foundation of Members of Wimbledon Parkside Foundation of Members of Members of Members of Members of Charan. Private family service on Members of M. Paine, 265 Ewell Road, Surbina, Surey.

OLIVER - Christopher Selwyn Farquharson, Died swiftly at the age of 71, after a long illness bravely borne and well-tended, in the Fligrins' Hospice, Canterbury, on December 4th, Funeral at Backson Grenstorium at 12 neon on Wednesday Batham Crematorium at 12 neous on Wednesday December 10th. Family flowers only to C.W. Lyona, Military Road. Donations in tieu to The Pilgrims'

Meseura.

Filland - John Chrise, diel peacefully at home on Rosember 28th 1997, and Etc. Balved bestern for 56 years of Peggy and father of Alison. Rosemary and William. The Fancial tockplace in France on 1st December 1997.

H. Lovegrove Funera Directors, Caversham Reading, tel: (0118) 946 1393.

Complete Committee Committ comfortably at home on December 4th with his long term carer at his side. Funeral Service on Friday December 12th at 12:30 pm Mortlake Crematorium. Flowers or donations to Parkinson's Disease Society may be sent to TH Sandars & Sons, tel: (0181) 876-4672.

IN MEMORIAM -PRIVATE

STYLES - Gertrude Mary on 1st lacesches 1977 at Arthur Chark Home, Resding, aged 91, wife of the late Frank Styles. Funeral Service at Reading Crematorium at 3.15 pm on Wednesday 10th December. Engelies to Cytil Daddy, you are forever in my thoughts and I miss you every day, but I know you are always sitting on my shoulder. Wicky.

TATEM - Ken, much loved father of Zara and Rebe, will be very much missed by their families, Died suddenly 4th December 1997. PLATS TO LET

IN MEMORIAM —

ASTON - Dr Simon Bobert, geochemist with the UN, died aged 39 in Monaco December 1986. With gratitude and pride we remember Simon who gave to much lave and happiness, during his life and left such that the such t

we remember your 25t. Revel Hushfield May 17th 1918 December on 1992 My dayling husband will love and cherish your

POSSTRUCTS - Richard CRE in loving memory of my darling husband who pessed away 5 years ago today. So many charished memories, forever in my heart Liz. OMPRIMS - Bichard CRE

ANNOUNCEMENTS (HD.HEW Ouspensky control, a Fourth Way school now socset ing students 0181 347 5353.

HEARSPEAR Richard James, 22 Today, Many Happy Ratume Peter, Ethel, Phyllis, Joyce

DAVID William Buckley, Special Stringley Wishes on the 7th for a year special passes. Communications SERVICES

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PORTHCOMENG MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES

"A CHRISTMAS MESSAGE" Start the Festive Season in The Times

on 22nd December 1997 by sending colleagues,

clients, friends, family and loved ones that Special Christmas Greeting and Happiness for the New Year. For further information please telephone



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THE VEN G. B. TIMMS

The Ven G. P. Timms. Archdeacon of Hackney, 1971-81, died op November 15 aged 87. He was born on October 4. 1010.

The Ven G. B. Timms was a Church of England priest in the English catholic tradition. He valued tradition, and advertised this by wearing an archdeacon's frock coat and gainers on formal occasions at a time when most dignitaries had long since given them up.
It was part of his style, as was
the cigarette holder which he wore and wielded like Marlene Dietrich. But tradition for him was not an inhibiting constraint, rather a valued source from which to draw inspiration and guidance.

Timms was a good example of the scholarly parish priest who in the past has been so important in building up the life of the Church of England. He read and studied in order to provide the best in liturgy and hymnody, because he thought that only the best was good enough for the worship of God and also that only the best was good enough for the people of God.

There was a remarkable consistency in Timms's ministry. The things which he cared about and which led him into the ministry of the Church of

John Elwyn, painter, died

on November 13 aged 80.

He was born on

November 20, 1916.

JOHN ELWYN'S memories

of childhood in a close-knit

community of farmers.

weavers and country crafts-

men in the isolated heartland

of Welsh-speaking south Car-

diganshire sustained him

through a long career as a

painter in self-imposed exile in

England. His paintings of the

Nonconformist chapel com-

munity, its woollen mills, bus-

tling farmyards and gentle

rolling cattle pastures are a

lasting testament to his undi-

minished love for the locality

Like an 18th-century artist

in search of the picturesque,

castle Emlyn on the banks of

the Teifi, where his father

manufactured flannel for

Llandysul County Grammar

School in 1935 to become the

only painting student at Car-

marthen School of Art. where

the Principal, Sidney Morse-

Brown, recognised his talent.

He completed the final year of

his training at the West of

England Academy at Bristol

and was awarded a Royal.

Exhibition in 1938 to study at

miners' shirts. He left

of his youth.

vision.

England were what he taught in his parish ministry and, when opportunity arose, tried to communicate to the wider Church through his writings and addresses in the Church Assembly, General Synod and elsewhere. He made outstanding contributions to the revision of services for the Alternative Service Book and to hymnody by writing numerous hymns and chairing the editorial board for the New English Hymnal.

George Boorne Timms was born in Derby. His parents were devout Baptists and, as soon as he was old enough, he went with his half-sisters three times each Sunday to the church services and Sunday school. This was a walk of one and a half miles each day. He continued going regularly and was baptised when he was 15.

In later life he used to look back with gratitude for what he had learnt in that period of his life. He went on a scholarship to Derby School and was intending to become a schoolmaster. But, while he was in the sixth form, he became friendly with three boys who hoped to start training for ordination in the Church of England. He began going with them to services at their local Anglican church and became increasingly attracted to the beauty of the liturgy.

Around the same time, the



minister of his own Baptist church left to join the Church of England. Together these things persuaded Timms to seek confirmation.

in 1930 he went up to Oxford, to St Edmund Hall to years. He was very happy there, finding "an exceptionally high standard of worship with an elaborate ceremonial

Coventry.

but on 'English' not 'Roman' lines," as he wrote later, It was there that he wrote his first, small book, in 1945 Dom Gregory Dix of Nashdom Abbey had published his seminal work The Shape of the Liturgy. Timms took issue with him over his view of Archbishop Cranmer's beliefs. In Dixit Cranmer: A Reply to Dom Gregory, he defended Cranmer's theology and his liturgical compositions. In 1949 Timms was appointed priest vicar and sacrist of

two years' ordination training

followed by a two-year train-

ing curacy in a parish in

In January 1938 he moved to

a second curacy in a parish in

Reading where he stayed for

an unusually long period of 11

Southwark Cathedral, which gave him valuable experience in ordering worship and ceremonial on great occasions. Three years later he was appointed vicar of St Mary's, Primrose Hill in Hampstead, which ever since Canon Percy Dearmer had been vicar there at the beginning of this century had been renowned for the beauty of its music and liturgical worship in the English

catholic tradition. There was much to be done in the parish following the disruption of war, but he managed to find time to be rural dean, a Proctor in Convocation (a member of the House of Clergy in the Church Assembly/General Synod) and a member of the Archbishop's Commission to revise the Catechism.

In 1965 Timms was appointed vicar of the Guild Church of St Andrew in the City and also Director of Ordination Training. When the London diocese was split into episcopal areas in 1971, ordination training became the responsibility of each of the area bishops. Timms stayed at St Andrew's, and was appointed Archdeacon of Hackney in the Stepney episcopal area.

As vicar of a Guild church with no Sunday services he was able to join in Sunday worship in all the churches in his care. But he was also composing collects for the 73 new entrants in the calendar of saints authorised in the Alternative Service Book, which were published in Clouds of Witness just after his retire-ment in 1981. He was working hard, too, on the New English Hymnal, which was published in 1986 and contains 14 of his own hymns. In his long life he greatly enriched the life and worship of the Church of England.

He was unmarried.

ANN LINDSELL



Ann Lindsell, motor neurone disease sufferer and campaigner for the legalisation of voluntary euthanasia, died on December I aged 47. She was born on April 28,

OF THE the six years she had motor neurone disease, Annie Lindsell spent the last two campaigning for the right of terminally ill patients to ask for and receive doctor-assisted help in dying. In a recent High Court case, she obtained the assurance that, at her request, her GP could legally administer palliative drugs which could have the effect of shortening her life.

This broke new ground in that she gained the court's approval for this treatment to be given at her own request and at a much earlier stage than is normal medical practice.

The daughter of a businessman and a nursing sister, she spent her childhood in Emerson Park, Hornchurch, excelling in modern languages and drama at the local grammar school while also training in singing and tap-dancing. Although she was never actually expelled, a clash of wills with the headmistress led her to leave school at 16 and to enrol at Thurrock College for A levels and a degree in French and German. However, boredom with a traditional career in technical translation led her joining BOAC as an air stewardess at the age of 21. Here she found that the rights of the female cabin crew were vastly different from the men's. Women could not marry and had to leave at the age of 28.

This led Lindsell into a parallel career as one of the first female trade union representatives in the airline industry during which, in 1970-71. she was instrumental in creating a closed shop cabin crew union and, in 1974, in bringing about the only 100 per cent walkout ever staged in the airline's history. Later, she was a key player in the implementation of the Equal Opportunities Act in the airline and was responsible for many of the rights enjoyed by stewardesses in today's British Airways.

Although often accused of being a feminist, Lindsell always denied this label, contending that her belief was simply that promotion should be related to ability rather than gender. One of the original Concorde team, in 1986 she was offered a promotion to management, a position which she turned down in favour of leaving the airline and rekindling her acting career at a drama school.

She was an accomplished singer, especially in the blues, and possessed a legendary ability to imitate accents which contributed to a varied career in acting and later as a cabaret artist in London and on the Edinburgh Fringe. Even after becoming wheelchair-bound, she continued to perform, both on stage and on television. Lindsell's final career was, however, as a management training consultant, starting in 1989 and continuing successfully until motor neurone disease was diagnosed in January 1992.

For the next four years, she was consumed with both finding a cure for herself, by traditional and alternative means, and fundraising. In June 1995, she helped to set up a new charity, the John Hill Foundation, in order to channel money more directly into research. At this time, she also began to express fears about the manner of her own death and was asked to give her views on physician-assisted Voluntary Euthanasia Society.

Thus began a whirlwind of speaking engagements and media attention leading to her decision in the summer of 1996 to seek legal advice on possible court action. Wanting to phrase the case in terms of human rights, she was initialinclined to consider the European Court, However, the time this would involve led her, in October 1997, to take her individual case to the High Court in Britain. There she spoke of her relief at knowing that she would "not be compelled to live her last days in a state of indignity and extreme distress." Five weeks later she died peacefully from breathing problems associated with the disease.

Her parmer, Ron Hicks,

JOHN ELWYN

read theology, and was fortu-

nate to have Austin Farrer,

one of the leading theologians

of the mid-20th century, as his

tutor. From there he proceed-

ed to the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield for



he travelled to discover sensuous forms within a landscape of enclosed valleys, and re-corded rural activities from his facility for figure drawing seed time to harvesting. At attracted the attention of times marginalised by the younger generation of ab-Gilbert Spencer, who said in a testimonial that Elwyn was stract painters in Wales. the best student he had taught. Elwyn's studies were Elwyn remained true to his interrupted by the war, and in William John Elwyn Davies 1940 he faced a Conscientious was born at Emlyn Mill in the Objectors Tribunal and was directed to work on the land. village of Adnar, near New-

In 1948 he moved to Hampshire, where he taught at Portsmouth College of Art, and, "realising I knew more about myself than anything else," he began "to write stories in paint" illustrating childhood experiences.

These pictures of rural Cardiganshire in the 1920s - the holidays, festivals, and funerals associated with chapelgoing - formed his first London exhibition, held at the Paul Alexander Gallery, Notthe Royal College of Art. Here "ting Hill.

Encouraged by the success of his first show, he began a new series about the miners and their landscape near Pontrhydyfen in the Afan Valley, where he lived when working in forestry during the war. "Gazing into a sulphurous sunset." he recalled, "and seeing the rows of small silhouetted figures of miners like insects with shadows and reflections scribbled on the wet roads making their way homewards to their tin baths in front of the kitchen fire, was a visual experience of the first order." The picturesque romanticism of the industrialised landscape was a rare departure from the concerns of mainstream British painting: few artists were re-

cording the industrial landscape in 1951. In 1953, Elwyn moved to

Winchester, where he taught painting and illustration at the School of Art until his retirement in 1976. There his paintings were once more concerned with a peaceful vision of the working life of the countryside, from season to season and at different times of the day. His landscapes encapsulate an attitude towards life in the country, and the virtue of working the land popularised in the 19th century. Through the 1950s and 1960s he exhibited in many places in England and Wales. By 1960 Elwyn's compositions had become more economical and the formal passages were more predominant as he moved away from pure representation and clearly-recalled forms. These large can-

vases were shown in solo

exhibitions at the Leicester

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Galleries in Cork Street in Guides to the Countryside, and latterly illustrated a limited edi Gwilym's Houses Of Leaves

1965 and 1969. abstraction, however, he re-

turned to direct representation of the Cardiganshire landscape - landscapes of the mind which have a place in reality and a strong sense of genius loci. They are romantic, too, in their intense statement of emotion and the dramatic representation of a breadth of poignant visual experiences. Many of Elwyn's themes developed from his reading of Anglo-Weish literature, in particular that of his friends Glyn Jones, Leslie Norris and John Ormond.

Elwyn worked for time as a graphic designer for J. Walter Thompson in Berkeley Square. As an illustrator, he produced numerous books and dustwrappers, contributed to Radio Times from 1953, produced designs for the Shell

for the Old Stile Press, He made lithographs with Edwin la Dell at the Royal College of Art, with Stanley Jones at Curwen, and was commissioned to produce a series of prints for the Collectors Guild, New York, printed by the Curwen Press.

painter whose work sold consistently well. In his last year, he gained enormous pleasure from several accolades: a retrospective exhibition of 60 years of work at the National Library of Wales; a one-man show at the Martin Tinney Gallery, Cardiff; and an honorary DLitt from the University of Wales.

John Elwyn was a popular

John Elwyn married Gillian Butterworth in 1970, and she survives him.

MILESTONES



Stephane Grappelli, jazz musician, died on November I aged 89. He was born on January 26, 1908.

Stephane Grappelli played with many of the jazz greats: Duke, Fats, Glenn. Miles, Oscar and others. He was bought his first violin by his father when he was a child, and took a job as a cinema musician at the age of 14. Around 1927 he became a member - initially as a planist - of a big band called the Gregorians. He then met the gypsy guitarist Django Reinhardt and forged a remarkable partnership. With friends they formed a quintet which created a new form of subtle but fiery jazz. In London during the war, Grappelli worked the clubs with the pianist George Shearing, and with the return of peace he was reunited with a rather wayward Reinhardt, until his death in 1953. A revival of interest in the jazz violin in the following decade enabled him to edge back towards the limelight, and in the 1970s he recorded a series of popular duets with Yehudi Menuhin. Never married, he continued

to tour and record despite illness almost to the end of his life. Obituary published on

Kathy Acker, author and performer, died on November 29. She is thought to have been born in 1944 or

Kathy Acker was an icono-

clastic New Yorker who be-

December 2.

came a stripper on 42nd Street after college, and gravitated towards underground artists, writers and photographers. In Britain, fame and notoriety were heaped upon her in 1984 with the publication of Blood and Guts in High School. She saw herself as an heir of William Burroughs - refusing plot and writing obsessively about bodies and sex — and, as an embodiment of the deconstructive counter-culture, she was the subject of a South Bank Show. Her book Pussy. King of the Pirates was rejected by her British publishers as too graphic. She took instead to performing and recording parts of it with

a punk band named the

Mekons. Taken very seriously in the wilder reaches of academia, she was asked by the San Francisco Art Institute to launch a department of writing in 1990. Obituary published on

December 2. Big Daddy (Shirley Crabtree), wrestler, died on December 2 after a stroke aged 67. He was

born on November 14.

Born in Halifax and named after his wrestling father himself named after Charlotte Brontë's Shirley - the boy who became Big Daddy always wanted to be a wrestler. He appeared as Mr Universe and the Blond Adonis. but it was not until he adopted the name Big Daddy and took to a leotard and a glitzy cape that he broke through to showbiz acclaim. For more than a decade he featured in the ITV wrestling promoted by his brother, and although they were contrived pantomines and there were accusations of fight-rigging, the shows made him famous. He

especially with children. Obituary published December 3.

did much charity work.

Eric Laithwaite. Emeritus Professor of Heavy Electrical Engineering at Imperial College, London, died on November 27 aged 76. He was born on June 14, 1921.

Eric Laithwaite designed the world's first magnetically levitating high-speed train, and persuaded the Government of the day to back it. A mile of track was built and a

full-scale levitating locomorive tested, but soon abandoned. Laithwaite turned to writing books and became familiar on radio and television. Then he heard from an amateur inventor. Alex Jones, about a wheeled device which apparently broke Newton's Third Law of Motion - moving without any power to the wheels or any thrust. He became fascinated by gyroscopes, gradually



convincing himself that they did break known scientific laws, and might be an unrecognised source of preternatural power. For this breach of scientific decorum he fell more or less into academic disgrace, retiring from Imperial College in 1981. "None of my critics could ever explain to me how a 50lb spinning wheel loses weight," he said. He spent his last years experimenting with a variety of gyroscopic rigs, and in 1993 applied for a patent on a gyroscopic spacedrive: typically, he had built the demonstration model out of his childhood Meccano set. Obituary published on

December 4.

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COAL KING 30

Budge proves a tough nut

BUSINESS

SECTION2 PAGES 51-64

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcröft

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

Property sale may force BG to cut gas bills

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

BG may be forced to cut household gas bills by an additional £14 after the company admitted it hoped to get £800 million for property which it told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was worth nothing.

Ofgas is to confront BG over the cash in a new twist to the acrimonious battle between the two over pricing curbs on Transco, the gas pipeline net-work owned by BG. Ofgas is to say that up to half of the proceeds from the sales should go back to customers.

The industry watchdog said: "This is big money that should mean a small cut in bills for a year." Ofgas is to say that the company, with whom it settled a two-year fight over Transco's prices in October, should put half of the profits of the sales back into Transco to fund price cuts to customers. With its third-quarter figures last month BG told The Times that the property sales would go to boost its exploration

BG's property portfolio in-cludes more than 1,000 sites. It has environmental commitments that are likely to cost about £350 million, according to Philip Hampton, the finance director. But he said the proceeds from the sales would go into exploration and

production. During its inquiry into the row between the company and the regulator over the Transco pricing plan BG told the MMC that it would rationalise its property portfolio. But it said it "did not expect to make an overall profit for such a rationalisation".

Ofgas, which has no jurisdiction over BG's non-regulated activities, is incensed that



Varney: image control

iven the huge number of

brought to us by the Tories -

Tessas, Peps. Furbs (eh?) and the like -

it was no surprise this week when new

Lahour announced it was bringing us

While this was generally perceived to

be a valiant attempt to persuade millions

more to save, thrifty Middle England

immediately took umbrage at the

£50,000 ceiling put on the scheme. Those

who used the previous regime to build

up tax-free savings of more than £50,000

felt justifiably aggrieved at being told

they would now have to pay tax on

dominated by another set of initials.

IMF as it emerged that the Internation-

al Moneta; y Fund had finally reached

The week started with the headlines

anything over that amount.

the 1sa (individual savings accounts).

acronymous savings schemes

BG had told the MMC its property portfolio was worth-less and is now expecting to pump profits into exploration and production. It said that if all of the £800 million BG quoted was booked as profit then E400 million should go to the Transco half of the business and then straight back to customers in one off price

If its liabilities have to come off the £800 million then it wants the company to take the same action. At the higher end of estimates that will lead to £14 off a domestic bill; at the lower end it will mean a cut of

The action by Ofgas will reopen a fresh clash between the two sides. The bitter row over Transco's pricing proposals prompted the company to declare the actions of the regulator to be "the biggest smash and grab raid" in corporate history. But the company has toned down its language and image under the control of David Varney, the chief executive. He has taken over from Dick Giordano. who stepped aside to become the non-executive, part-time chairman when British Gas demerged earlier this year. development and the company is unlikely to want to

divert a substantial cash injection into the operation. BG, which told the MMC it had clean-up obligations of £421 million as opposed to the £350 million quoted by Mr Hampton, said it may have to pay about £400 million extra in developing the land for sale. However, it has made no

provision for such an expense. The company said: "Nobody knows exactly how much this property is worth. Its value is dependent on the property market, which is unpredictable. As of the end of 1996, BG had provisions totalling £400 million for the statutory decontamination of land. We may have to spend that much again on additional work for the land to be

BG has already started selling key sites such as a 32-acre site in Chelsea Harbour, west London, for between £25 to £30 million to Berkeley Group. Berkeley is planning a £100 million residential and commercial development

Commentary, page 29



Holding all the aces: Alan Goodenough announced a breakthrough for LCI in Las Vegas

LCI places bets in Las Vegas

LONDON Clubs International, the casino operator, moved a step closer to becoming the first British company to enter the world's most famous gammarket after securing a stake in a significant development in Las Vegas.

A year after signing a letter of intent, LCI announced yesterday that it has signed a conditional deal to pay \$50 million (£30 million) for a 25 per cent stake in Aladdin Gaming, the company behind

BY DOMINIC WALSH the Aladdin Hotel and Casino

on the 'Strip'. When the complex opens in 2000 it will have 2,600 bedrooms with around 2,800 slot machines and 90 gaming tables. LCI's stake will also give it a share of profits in an adjacent scheme for a Planet

Hollywood hotel and casino. Alan Goodenough, chief executive of LC1, said: "We think the Aladdin project is a massive break for this com-

pany."
The news came as LCI

suffered a drop in half-year pre-tax profits from £19.9 million to £14.4 million as highrollers at the Ritz club and

Rendezvous enjoyed a lucky ings Account — Isa — unveiled streak. However, the situation by the Treasury this week since "had totally corrected (Marianne Curphey writes). itself", and trading in the first eight months of the current The product was conceived in just three days after the year was now ahead of last Treasury's announcement on year. Earnings per share reached 6.9p (8.9p) and the interim dividend, to be paid Tuesday and is on offer 16 months ahead of Isa's introduction in April 1999. Financial on January 30, stays at 2.625p. services providers are keen to

Fifth profits warning from BTR knocks 12% off shares

butions will be significantly

down on 1996. Nylex Malay-

sia, the specialist engineer supplying switchgear to Ma-

laysia and South-East Asia.

has also been hit by the

region's economic slowdown.
BTR recently announced the disposal of the bulk of its

polymers products division in

a £315 million management

buyout. It said the disposal

was ahead of schedule.

Mr Strachan said the pound had strengthened since BTR's

interim results were announced

in September, when its was

estimated that profits would be

cut by £30 million on transla-

tion from foreign currencies in the second half. This estimated

figure was increased yesterday

The strength of the pound is also damaging BTR's ability to compete with other export-

ers and domestic producers

overseas. This transactional

currency effect will be higher

in the second half than in the

first, when it was about [1]

million. Mr Strachan would

not estimate how much the

BTR also announced yester-

day that it is to be reclassified

from January 1998 as an

engineering company in the

London share lists, after a

decision by the FTSE Actu-

aries Industry Classification

and the maximum investment

is £1,000. It will pay fixed-rate

interest of 7.2 per cent gross

over a year, or the equivalent

of 10 per cent over the 16

months before the Isa starts.

terest on money removed be-

fore the maturity date of May

b. 1999. If no money is taken

out, all interest will be paid on

majurity and the aim is to pay

it tax-free under Isa rules.

An investor will lose all in-

Committee this week.

Bristol & West claims

first place in Isa race

increase would be.

to £32 million.

BTR shares fell more than 12 per cent yesterday after the conglomerate issued its fifth profits warning since Septem-

BTR said that economic difficulties in Asia and South America were hitting automotive sales in the second half of its financial year.

Combined with the early

disposal of businesses in its restructuring programme, plus further pain from the strength of sterling, the emerging markets problems will leave second-half profits "more or less" at their restated

first-half level of £565 million. Ian Strachan, BTR chief executive, said: "This is expected to carry over into 1998. "The shares closed at 18212 p. down from 208p. He said BTR had sales of about £900 million in emerging markets such as Brazil, China, Korea and Malaysia last year, with about £300 million coming from South America.

He said the automobile market in Brazil had been severely hurt by a sudden doubling in interest rates. The majority of cars in Brazil are

bought using consumer credit. The financial instability in the Far East and South-East Asia has also hit BTR automotive exports, such as axles, from Australia to Korea and Indonesia, BTR said both Brazil and Australia's automotive divisions' full-year contri-

BRISTOL & WEST is claiming

to have launched the first in a

new range of savings products

linked to the Individual Sav-

US RATE

BUSINESS

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NORTH SEA OIL Brent 15-day (Feb) \$18.28 (\$18.10) BOLD

London close \$297,85 (\$288.55) * denotes midday trading price

Stay with UK, Brown urges Wall St

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

GORDON BROWN, the Chancellor, last night urged Wall Street to maintain its can be opened with just E10 though the UK will not join European monetary union in the first wave.

> He told an audience of too bankers and executives at the British American Chamber of Commerce: "Whatever your views on the euro may be, my message is simple. This British Government is determined to maximise your business opportunities after 1999. British economic policies will go on being right for business.

> Britain will continue to lead Europe towards ever freer trade and more open markets. And Britain will continue to be the best place in Europe from which to exploit the new business opportunities after 1999.

> "Britain is now set on a course based on our commitment to the principle of a single currency, and our strategy for preparations now, so that if the Government recommends it early in the next Parliament, the people of Britain can decide."

> Mr Brown said Europe's corporatist follies of the past would not be repeated under monetary union.

share in the new Isa market. Tempos, page 31 Isa Special, pages 62-64 a planned redevelopment of The Bristol & West account Goldman Sachs stars set for \$20m bonus

FROM OLIVER AUGUST IN NEW YORK

GOLDMAN SACHS, the US investment bank, will kick off the bonus season with record payouts to its 190 partners next week. Sources claim the partners will receive a minimum of \$4 million (£2.4 million) each, while some star performers can expect more than \$20 million.

A speciacularly good year for the last remaining partnership on Wall Street will boost pay packages by up to 40 per cent, even after the pay bon-anza last year. Managing directors, some earning relatively modest \$150,000 in base salary, will get an average of \$1.5 million.

Negotiations over bonuses have dominated business at the bank for the last few weeks and traders and deal-makers will use this weekend to make last-disch attempts to flatter and bully their bosses into increasing payouts. Final fig-ures will be announced in New York and London on Thursday.

According to former emoyees, the bonus negotiations are poisoning the atmosphere every year. Roy Smith, a business school tutor

who used to be a Goldman partner said: "There is a certain animal character to this. Relatively few people are made very happy, even if their bonuses are very large." Goldman Sachs declined to

comment on the compensation of its partners. But headhunters have confirmed the pay levels. One said: "There is now something called The Phone Club. To be a member, your

pay cheque has to be bigger than your phone number. I have heard executives talk about comparing phone bills or even getting a new phone number to get membership." New York has seven-digit phone numbers.

By the end of the bonus season, about 1,000 Wall Street bankers are expected to have been paid more than \$1 million each.

AWEEK IN THE CITY

agreement on a \$57 billion rescue package for South Korea's ailing economy. The rescue immediately revived hopes that the Asian financial crisis may yet be salvageable, although it failed to prevent Samsung, one of South Korea's big four conglomerates or chaebol. from shelving plans for a £450 million investment on Teesside.

Back in London, JP Morgan, the US investment bank, suspended two of its traders as the Stock Exchange launched an investigation into a flurry of shares deals last week that sent the FTSE 100 diving 38 points in the final minutes of

Friday trading It seems the traders broke the rules by dumping stocks such as Glaxo Wellcome and Smithkline Beecham into a thin market. The episode served to heighten fears that Sets, the new automated settlement system, has left the market vulnerable to deliberate manipulation.

On Tuesday, NatWest finally bit the bullet and announced the sale of its NatWest Markets arm for £179 million to Bankers Trust and Deutsche Morgan

In the wake of Barciays's exit from BZW, the move brought down the

curtain on ill-fated attempts by UK banks to establish themselves as global players in investment banking. Meanwhile, attempts by Hambros to pep up its lacklustre performance were given a boost by suggestions that Generale of Belgium was in talks to buy its mmercial banking arm.

Over in the brewing sector, Bass created a flurry of unwelcome headlines as it took a El 77 million hit on its Gala bingo clubs, a traditional British pastime that has never really recovered from the arrival of the National Lottery three years ago. In recent weeks, those in

the know have been saying Bass is looking to cut its losses and head for the exit. However. Sir Ian Prosser. chairman, pressed the usual "no comment" button, leaving no one any the wiser. He was equally tightlipped on what he plans to do with the E2 billion war chest

the group has built up.

Equally predictable was Thursday's news that the Prudential has again missed a crucial deadline for dealing with its most serious cases of pensions mis-selling. This. just three weeks after Sir Peter Davis, the chief executive. (who funnily enough doesn't seem quite so

keen on the Man from the Pru epithet these days) apologised on national TV for his company's part in the £4 billion pensions scandal.

As grumbles over isa rumbled on through the week, the Government moved to deflect the criticism by claiming the estimates of the number of people adversely affected were "totally ludicrous"; the likely figure was more like 350,000-450.000 rather than the 750,000 cited at Tuesday's launch.

But if you still fall into the 'losers' category, why not follow the lead of Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire Paymaster General who launched the scheme, and put your excess savings offshore? Then start dreaming of that villa in Tuscany.

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Chelsea Village will

buy stadium freehold

CHELSEA VILLAGE, the parent company of Chelsea FC,

the Premiership football club, will buy the freehold of its

Stamford Bridge stadium with part of the proceeds of a £75

million eurobond issue, it was announced yesterday. Chelsea is paying £12.4 million for the balance of the

freehold on the site, in West London. The site is majority-

owned by Stardust Investments, one of the companies run by the executors of the Matthew Harding estate. Mr Harding, a former Chelsea vice chairman, was killed in a helicopter

The rest of the proceeds of the bond issue will be used to pay off £29 million of debt and to fund the completion of the

development of Stamford Bridge, Michael Russell, finance director, said. The funds have been ring-fenced in such a way that they cannot be spent on players. Chelsea will shortly open

a 160-room hotel at Stamford Bridge and it has also built some 40 apartments at the stadium. Finishing touches are being made to the hotel, which is set to open by early January. Chelsea, coached by Roud Gullit and boasting an array of

did not uphold a complaint against a claim that people who

switched from a broker to Direct Line could save 15 per cent.

Phytopharm's £3m loss

PHYTOPHARM, the biotechnology company whose shares have fallen sharply from 2102p to 45p this year, sought to reassure

investors about prospects yesterday despite reporting a rise in

pre-tax losses to £3 million (£564,909 loss) in the year to the end of

August. The company, which develops traditional herbal remedies from China and Africa, has 12 products in development

and talks under way to licence various products for the drugs

market. Turnover was £45,000, against £934,000 in 1996, when

there was an £800,000 fund from Rhone-Poullenc Rorer to develop Zemaphyte, an eczerna drug. Losses were 9.92p a share (2.54p loss) and there is again no dividend.

JARDINE LLOYD THOMPSON has acquired an interest in

two companies involved in the financial risks business for up

to \$7.2 million (£4.3 million). JLT has entered into an option agreement with Henrik Berggren and other executives to buy their interests in two newly formed companies. JLT Financial

Solutions, a Swedish company, and Financial Solutions, a

Bermudan company. The companies were formed to own

and develop the existing financial insurance portfolio run by

the management, including the political and credit risk business formerly of the Max Matthiessen Group, newly acquired by JLT Financial Solutions.

INFLATION in the European Union fell slightly, to 1.7

JLT in £4m deal

EU inflation dips

foreign players, is second in the 20-team Premiership.

accident in October 1996.

IMF sees Asian crisis hitting world economy

By JANET BUSH FORMALICS EDITOR

THE International Monetary Fund said yesterday that the Asian crisis will cut growth in the world economy next

year to 3.5 per cent from 4.3 per cent. Stanley Fischer, IMF first deputy managing director, said that detailed figures would be published in a special interim World Economic Outlook on December 22. The IMF usually pub-

SHARES in Union Bank of

Switzerland and Swiss Bank

Corporation, two of the top

three Swiss banks, soared

yesterday in the belief that the

two will shortly announce a

merger that would value the

pair at \$60 billion (E36 billion).

merger discussions. Once com-

bined they would aim to attack

the American market via

another takeover. Yesterday

neither bank would confirm

the talks or the imminency of

A LLOYD'S of London in-

surance broker has been

banned from the market for

life and fined £20,000 after

admitting that he concealed

a customer's criminal record

David Martin, a senior

executive director of Special

Risk Services, a division of

the Minet Group, had been

approached by the custom-

er, a company director, in

Mr Martin commissioned

a report from a private

investigator on the director.

This revealed that the direc-

tor had been sentenced to

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The two banks have held

responding to the Asian crisis, is releasing an updated forecast for only the second time. The first was after the 1987 stock market crash.

Mr Fischer said that strong economic performances in America and Europe were helping to offset the impact of turmoil in Asia but that the outlook in Asia and Japan had worsened significantly since the last WEO in September. He predicted

Top Swiss banks

expected to seal

£36bn merger

BY OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

spurred by the presence on the

shareholders' register of Mar-

tin Ebner, who believes the

best way ahead for the bank is

to merge and rationalise. Shares in UBS rose 39 francs

to Swfr1,930 and SBC rose 12

SBC shares have gained roughly 25 per cent in the past

six weeks, while UBS has

risen around 30 per cent. The

rises have dragged the entire

UBS's traditional culture as

Swiss market up by 15 per cent

three years' imprisonment

for fraud, and concluded

that he should not be dealt

But Mr Martin fabricat-

ed a different report pur-

porting to come from the

same investigator, which

made no mention of the

criminal record and rec-

ommended him as a busi-

The Lloyd's Disciplin-

ary Tribunal said that it

was "an act of calculated

dishonesty by a senior

employee in a position of

trust". Mr Martin also has

to pay costs of £5,000.

ness partner.

francs to Swfr443.

in the past six weeks.

UBS directors have been an old-style bank where em-

Lloyd's ban broker

for dishonesty

By ADAM JONES

with.

growth in South Korea would drop to Korean stock market railied almost 7 a range between 2.5 and 3 per cent. This compares with average annual growth over the past three decades of

Mr Fischer was speaking on the day that South Korea announced the details of a \$57 billion (£33.5 billion) bail-out from the IMF whose conditions include the closing of insolvent banks and a dramatic liberalisation of the stock market. The South

ployees complain they are not

allowed telephone answering

machines. contrasts with

Brinson, the Chicago-based

asset management firm, as well as SG Warburg, the

British merchant bank now

fused with Dillon Read. UBS

owns PDFM in London, the

fund manager that has per-sisted in holding cash despite

the strong gains in equities. UBS is slightly larger when

measured by assets, would

bring volume and increase the

possibility for both to gain the needed mass for tackling glob-

The Swiss have become

more open to the idea of mega-

mergers following the relative success of the Novarus phar-

maceuticals merger between Ciba-Geigy and Sandoz last

year. However, a UBS-SBC

deal would have big implica-

tions for staff involved in the

domestic banking operations.

Rainer Gut, the Credit

Suisse chairman, put UBS in

the merger frame last year by

suggesting publicly that a merger could help solve the

problems that banks face in

the increasingly competitive

Nikolaus Senn, then UBS

chairman. publicly rejected

the offer. But in August Credit

Suisse and the Winterthur

insurance group announced a

merger. Subsequently Zurich

Insurance Group merged with the financial activities of BAT.

Commentary, page 29

THE SEE TIMES

OTIVE

European market.

Join The Fun Club!

SBC's interests include SBC

SBC's strength in IT.

per cent but the bond market crashed. Fears of sweeping corporate defaults sent overnight call money rates in the money markets to their limit of 25 per cent

The expected impact on world growth from Asia's turmoil leaves US policymakers with a conundrum. The US Federal Reserve was widely thought to have desisted from raising rates at its last meeting on November

But the domestic economy came back on the agenda with a vengeance yesterday with a very strong US jobs report. The US unemployment rate iell to 4.6 per cent in November from 4.7 per cent in October, the lowest rate since October 1973. The Treasury bond market fell by a full point in reaction. However, the Dow Jones industrial average opened sharply

BY OUR CITY STAFF

THE TURMOIL in South-

per cent, to £210 million.

cent, to 1.05p, out of earnings

rency exposure and expan-sion within the British Isles would affect short-term results. "We remain confident in our long-term strategy of

Courts now has 94 stores in

Bruce Cohen, chief execuahead of the comparable

Mr Cohen said that he

Courts is held back by turmoil in Asia

Direct Line returns East Asia and the cost of expansion in the North of England held back growth in A TELEVISION advertisement for Direct Line that was suspended after complaints from rival insurers is to be rebroadcast in the new year. It was suspended last month profits for Courts, the UK and while the Independent Television Commission investigated complaints that it was misleading and showed traditional international furniture and electrical appliances retailer. Courts lifted pre-tax profits from £9.56 million to £9.71 insurance brokers in a damaging way. The ITC rejected three of the four areas of complaint and Direct Line has altered the script to address the fourth area of complaint, concerning claims-handling procedures of traditional brokers. The ITC

million in the six months to September 28 on sales up 16 The dividend rises 5 per

per share down from 9.7p to 7.46p. The fall in earnings was put down to a change in the mix of profit contribution from countries with differing rates of taxation. The company said that cur-

maintaining an international spread of businesses and assets." it said.

Britain, 59 in South-East Asia. 76 in the Caribbean and 34 in the Pacific/Indian Ocean area. On Asia, the company says that it remains "confident and committed to the

tive and managing director of Courts, said: "Trading both in the British Isles and overseas in the second half-year so far period last year."

expects to open six more superstores in the UK in the second half and II electrical departments. "A further ten superstores are planned to open in 1998/99," he added. The shares fell lop to 44i pp. BetterWa

·1175 (15 81 865)

poised 1

&Csells petfood bisiness

Bruce Cohen aims to open more Courts stores **Knight Williams** compensation cut

By JOHN GIVENS

A 72-YEAR-OLD widow who was one of the victims of Knight Williams, the failed independent financial adviser. has suffered another blow in her campaign to win compensation after an offer made by the investors Compensation Scheme was cut by £2,000, a decrease of 20 per cent, before

she had a chance to accept it. The pensioner, who has asked not to be named, received a letter from the ICS in November offering £10,513.86 as compensation for a Friends Provident fund sold to her by Knight Williams, which arranged investments for around 24,000 retired people in the 1980s before hitting problems earlier this decade. However, before she was able to accept the offer,

ICS saying that new information had come to light and that the compensation payable was being reduced by almost £2,000, to £8,568.93. The ICS gave no details explaining the change, and a

looking into the matter. The Knight Williams Action

Group has complained to the Treasury about the change.

Hamble helped by

BOEING has increased demand for aircraft parts pro-

Production of leading edges for the wings of the Boeing 737-700 will increase from four a month to as many as 14 a month by 1999. Boeing and CI7 Globernaster will also

per cent, in October, from 1.8 per cent in September, the EU's statistics agency reported yesterday. EU inflation stood at 2.3 per cent in October last year, Eurostat said. In October this year, the lowest rate was in Ireland, at 0.8 per cent. Greece was by far the worst performer, at 4.6 per cent. Inflation in Britain, as calculated by the EU. was 1.9 per cent. The lowest rates were registered in France and Austria, at 1.1 per cent, while German inflation stood at 1.4 per cent. The EU rate compares to 2.1 per cent in America and 2.5 per cent in Japan. Gooch to have £17m tag

another letter arrived from the

spokesman for the government agency said it could not discuss individual cases. Friends Provident. a mutual, said that it is

demand from Boeing

GOOCH & HOUSEGO, a maker of precision optical components, has issued a prospectus outlining its plan to raise £5.9 million with a placing of shares on the AIM at 105p. Archie Gooch, chairman, said: "We have been delighted with the response from investors. Trading in the current financial year is in line with expectations, and our order book is strong, particularly in the acoustio-optic division." Dealings should start on December 12, and the group will be capitalised at £17.75 million. Of the £5.9 million being raised, £3.9 million is for existing shareholders and £2 million for the company.

WF buys Grants

WF ELECTRICAL has acquired Grants Electrical Supplies. an independent private company, for up to £2.8 million. Grants is an electrical distributor supplying a broad base of customers, including industrial users, local authorities and electrical contractors. The consideration is expected to be between £2.7 million and a maximum of £2.8 million, subject to possible adjustment when the audited profits. Before management charges of £247,000, WF Electrical said Grants achieved pre-tax profits of £344,000 for the year ended March

Airbus are both experiencing massive demand from airlines for their commercial planes. Supply of Hamble's major wing structures for the Boeing

duced by Aerostructures Hamble, the EIS Group subsidiary, by committing itself to an extra \$140 million (ESS million) in orders (Adam

EIS also announced yesterday the sale of Francis Shaw Rubber Machinery and PRC Fabrications to a subsidiary of Farrel Corporation of the US

PURSURATES

Liffe and Chicago suspend 1995 agreement

Open outcry peters out

By MARTIN BARROW

"due to a lack of trading

volume". Liffe said a review

had concluded the market

does not require the liquidity

and responsiveness of open

outcry for contracts traded

outside Liffe's normal trading

chairman, said: This out-

come is naturally a disap-

pointment." He added: "The

market, though, has clearly shown its preference for using

an electronic trading platform

Liffe's automated pit trading

after-hours "trading."

Jack Wrigglesworth, Liffe

THE London International Financial Futures and Options Exchange (Liffe) and the Chicago Board of Trade have agreed to suspend their open outery linkage.

Liffe said the move, which comes into effect from the close of business on December 17. means that US Treasury bond futures and futures options will no longer trade on Liffe's floor. German govern-ment bond futures and futures options will no longer trade on the CBOT floor.

The linkage is being ended

system now deals with 27,000 contracts on an average daily

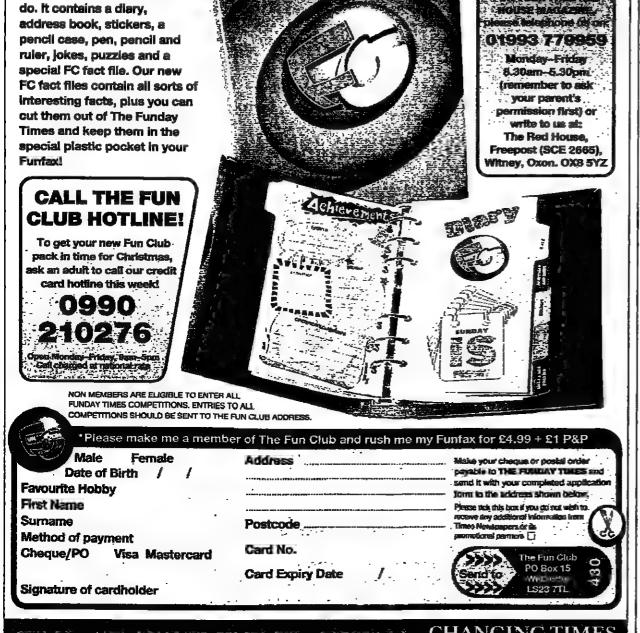
The Liffe-CBOT open outcry linkage was launched in May after a 1995 agreement to set up an open outcry linkage as a way to capture business for their respective products during trading hours outside their time

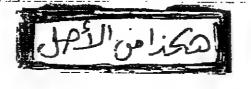
A CBOT spokesman said the two exchanges would pursue other strategic opportunities" to support their partnership.

THE SUNDAYTIMES REVEALED: Britain's fastest growing unquoted small companies A pioneering study,

exclusive to The Sunday Times, pinpoints the corporate stars of the future

Business -The Sunday Times,





nomic messages suggest that the Union Bank Corporation of Switzerland is being conceived. This product of UBS and SBC would then bolster itself with the acquisition of a major US player and be prepared to take on the emerging premier league of the investment banking world.

It was the realisation that they could not afford to play in that league which persuaded Bar-clays and then National Westminster to give up the game. The emerging Swiss mammoth will be a match for the handful of global giants which are deter-mined to dominate the banking scene in the next century but the British houses, and particularly their shareholders, were not prepared to put up the capital necessary to come near to

competing.

Not so long ago, they argued convincingly the case for scale. Clients deserving of the fashionable description "global" de-manded bankers who were equally international, they said. The one-stop shop was the shape of the future. The huge current success of organisations such as Merrill Lynch would seem to

amply support that view. But now, with the clear vision born of necessity, it seems that NatWest is taking a fresh look at the demands of the market place. And what does it find? The NatWest name over the door of its corporate finance business is not an asset at all and it is to go.

Swiss banks on a roll



Those chaps from Hambro Magan, who little more than a year ago cost NatWest a very generous runnoured £500 million, are now to be spared the indignity of working under the

The bank will provide the capital

clout that is needed but remain a

discreetly anonymous backer.

Along with the remains of

County NatWest, the corporate

advisory business is to be rebranded and the executives given the chance to take a stake.

The banking parent will retain a controlling shareholding in NotWest, which aims to regain the boutique status Hambro Magan enjoyed before succumbing to last year's irresistible offer.

George Magan in his most

creative corporate financier

mode could not have been ex-

pected to produce a happier scenario for himself and his

their good fortune in good com-

pany, for the City is preparing for another round of bumper bo-

nuses after the hectic activity of the last year. Howard Davies,

the chairman of the infant Finan-

cial Services Authority, has al-

ready warned that the scale of

City rewards will be bound to

They will be able to celebrate

colleagues.

high street banner.

cause unrest in less well remunerated corners of the country He is undoubtedly right. Those

who begrudge the City its sal-aries are not impressed by the argument that jobs in the Square Mile are precarious. But that is the case, and the Swiss banking merger is likely to put paid to another swathe. Most victims, however, languish at the lower end of the salary scale, in the back offices where savings are easily made.

Time for BG to turn on to lower bills

e have seen a little recovery in the property market lately. But for BG, the operators of the Transco gas pipeline, it seems there has been an almighty boom.

Several months ago after the bitter fighting between the company and the industry regulator

BG told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission that it would rationalise its property portfolio but "did not expect to make an overall profit for such a

rationalisation".

In a swift volte-face it recently said that it could drum up about £800 million from its property portfolio while incurring about £350 million of liabilities in environmental requirements to clean up the contaminated land. BG has more than 1,000 sites in its property portfolio, many of them prime city centre locations which developers would love to get their hands on. Its idea, finance director Philip Hampton waxed, was to boost the operations of its exploration arm with

But not so fast, if the regulator has anything to do with it. BG's declaration on its property assets to the MMC was made so that a full picture of its financial makecould be assembled and

return be assessed. That way the company gets what is deemed fair and the customers of the monopoly pay what is fair.

If BG has had a sudden and

surprising upturn in its expectations from its property portfolio — for surely that must be the case rather than it was in any way forgetful or confused about the figures it gave to the MMC — then customers should benefit too.

The scale of the discrepancy is not insubstantial — £14 off bills for a year at Ofgas's highest estimate, £7 at its lowest. Those who find it hard to heat their homes in the winter would rather BG share its surprising fortune than pump it into oil and gas exploration that will eventually translate to shareholder profits. The battle between BG and Of-

gas over Transco's pricing was fierce. Philip Rogerson, the deputy chairman, said the curbs amount ed to the "biggest smash and grab raid" in corporate history. The

the MMC asked for an even greater cut in bills than the regulator had pressed for, Posturing from companies and regul-ators is part of the regulatory game. But the forecasts they offer to the MMC should be sacro-sanct. Now BG should eat its figures along with its words and pledge that customers will also see some of its property boom.

Collective memory loss helps markets

Remember October, when Eastern markets fell off the cliff and Western ones miraculously clung on to an overhang about an eighth of the way down? Those whose time horizon stretches back that far are in a shrinking minority.

After the upsurge of the past two days, supposedly fed by the IMFS deal with Korea, London's FTSE-100 share index is about

FTSE-100 share index is about 2½ per cent off its peak and still up a quarter in 1997 with three weeks to go. On Wall Street the Dow is up almost as much and is even nearer its best.

Are Western financial markets merely convalescing from an unaccountable dizzy spell? Well, no. On the IMFs updated but

still less than hysterical forecast. a fifth will be lopped off the world economy's potential for 1998, taking growth down from 4.3 per cent to 3.5 per cent. The last time the IMF changed forecast midstream was after the 1987 crash.

After a buoyant 1997, Britain should not manage anything like that. UK interest rates have risen again and will certainly rise several notches further unless the economy almost grinds to a halt in the first half of next year. Projections of growth in company earnings are shrinking by the month and profit warnings linked to sterling outnumber

happy surprises.
As so often, bulls hope for more takeovers but depend on an old warhorse. The Fed's Alan Greenspan continues to guide the US economy briskly and skilfully along the tightrope between inflation and recession. He had better keen it up. had better keep it up.

A good idea

THE Innovations catalogue falls through the nation's letterboxes. bursting with present ideas for the person who has everything except a device for keeping spiders out of the bath or moles out of the garden. John Hoerner bought it for Burton as a quick way to learn the direct mail business. When he sold it to GUS for a small profit, he held onto the Innovations offshoot he wanted and the man with the

Betterware poised to quit market in buyout

BETTERWARE, the doorstep retailer, is set to end its turbulent history on the stock market through a leveraged buyout tabled by Peter Hartley, its managing director, and Paul Turner, its finance director.

Andrew Cohen, whose family controls just under half of the company, is in principle to the deal and is set to sell out for about £50

million in cash. Betterware shares, which

H&C sells

petfood

business

BY MARTIN BARROW

THE restructuring of Har-

risons & Crosfield took

another step forward yes-

terday when the company

announced the sale of its

Edward Baker perfoods business to Ralston Purina

The divestment is the

latest stage in the stream-

lining of the former con-

glomerate into a focused

speciality chemicals busi-

ness. Last month the company sold its Harcros builders merchants chain

to Meyer International for

Early next year H&C

proposes to return to its shareholders £359 million,

equivalent to 50p a share.

More money may be re-turned if the company.

which is to be renamed

Elementis, cannot identify

suitable acquisitions in the

Edward Baker produces

extruded and baked pet

foods for the grocery and

pet trade markets across

Europe. The business was acquired by H&C in 1989 and was subsequently ex-

panded via the purchase of

Petfood Service, a Dutch

supplier of dry pet food, in

1995. Last year the business earned operating

profits of £8.6 million on

Proceeds from the latest

disposal will be used to

reduce borrowings. The shares rose 6½p to 123½p.

sales of £71.1 million.

chemicals sector.

for £106.3 million.

the past three years, rose 412 p to 102p yesterday after a 10 per cent rise the day before. The company is now valued at Neither Mr Hartley, Mr Turner nor Mr Cohen were available for comment

have crumbled in value over

Mr Turner was been in his and he and Mr Hartley are said to have been taking greater control over the company as Mr Cohen took a more relaxed position.

The news was greeted with disbelief in the City yesterday. as analysts said a buyout would deprive shareholders of the widely expected recovery in its profits.

Betterware is only 16 per cent owned by leading institu-tions, and 47.9 per cent owned

by its present directors. If Mr Hartley and Mr Turner have Mr Cohen's support, they need win over only one institution to have the offer backed.

A spokesman for the attempted bidders said: "Betterware isn't going to be a dazzling performer. It has no big acquisition plans, and it isn't going to stun the market with much else. The question is whether it should continue to be a public company, and

the answer is probably nor."

He pointed out that Mr Cohen has been easing away from the front-line management of the company over the past few years, and has been building up other business

If an offer was made at 110p a share, this would provide an exit multiple of 14 times fore-

cast earnings. The company was expected to raise profits by 9 per cent to £12.5 million this year and deliver £13.9 million after-

wards. Betterware joined the market II years ago. It has steadily been paying the Cohen family around £1.2 million a year in dividends ever since, with an extra £4.6 million dividend in April through a special dividend.

Three years ago, Mr Cohen raised £31 million from selling a large part of the stake just before a series of profits warnings sent the market value tumbling by 82 per cent.



Michael Shallow, left, finance director, David McCall, chairman, and Tim Bridge, chief executive, toast success

Greene King profits leap 26%

GREENE KING, the Suffoik brewer and pubs group, shrugged off recent gloom over the viability of the "local" with interim pre-tax profits up by 25 per cent to £19.1 million. Shares in the group rose 19½p, to 676p, as David McCall, chairman, said the

meant that shareholders would receive a 12 per cent rise in the interim dividend to 5.3p. Earnings per share were up 13 per cent, to 23.7p. The managed houses divi-

sion, which continues to benefit from the £200 million acquisition of the Magic Pub Company last year, turned in

a 39 per cent rise in trading profits to £18.4 million. Leadopportunities exist throughout all retail sectors." ing the way was the foodbased Hungry Horse community pubs concept that came with Magic Pub. Mr McCall said: "We believe that

Brewing profits advanced by 13 per cent, to £3.4 million, on the back of a 7 per cent growth in volume. Abbot Ale was up 19 per cent and Green King IPA was up 1 per cent. The tenanted estate profits up 5 per cent rise, to £8.4 million.

RJB halts 100 job losses at Yorkshire pit

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

RJB MINING has halted 100 redundancies at Maltby colliery, near Rotherham, while it maps out a wide-ranging cost-cutting programme with the unions.

Richard Budge, chief execu-tive, made the decision "in the light of the ongoing uncertainty", after a meeting with two of the coal unions. But contract workers at the pit will still The decision comes amid

uncertainty engulfing the in-dustry and with expectations that the Government will announce more measures to support the industry after this week's U-turn on the building IWEI STATIONS.

Peter McNestry, general secretary of Nacods, the pit deputies union, said: "Neither side knows exactly where we are. We are looking at getting

Mr McNestry added: "The short-term solution to the problem in coal has got to be political. Cost-cutting won't feed through that quickly."

The redundancy delay may. however, stoke fears that miners will lose substantial entitlements for compensation under Tupe [redundancy and benefit obligations taken over from the former British Coal]. RJB must adhere to Tupe terms only until the end of March. Then miners and colliery management will get only statutory terms. For the better-paid workers the shortfall will be substantiai.

Before the meeting with Nacods and the British Association of Colliery Manage-ment, Mr Budge had been bullish on export hopes. He hopes to clinch deals to sell eight million tonnes of coal to Germany and Spain amid government representations about the amount of state subsidies those countries pay to their coal industries.

there is a market then we will sell what we are producing. We will know about Germany and Spain soon and there is also PowerGen."

PowerGen is the last of the three main generators with whom RJB is negotiating new contracts. It has been speculated that PowerGen could hold off coal deals until it knows the prospects for the company's development, such as whether it can buy a regional electricity company.

In the hot scat, page 30

OFT warns brokers licences may be lost

By GAVIN LUMSDEN

JOHN BRIDGEMAN, Director-General of Fair Trading, yesterday stepped up his campaign against oppressive lending by issuing warnings to two "master" brokers linked to City Mortgage Corporation (CMC), the controversial lender to vulnerable borrowers.

He has told Capital Credit of Truro and Charles Ashworth Finance of Stockseven associated

companies that he is minded to revoke their consumer credit licences. They have 21 days

Both brokers operate in the non-status" market arranging loans for credit-impaired people who answer advertisements in tabloid newspapers. Both have profited from their links with CMC, the largest lender in this market, which has come under fire from



Tempus, page 31 John Bridgeman is keen to stamp out oppressive lending

borrowers for its punitive level

the perceived problems of

community pubs have been

greatly exaggerated and that,

with appropriate infrastruc-

of charges and fees.
In August The Times highlighted the case of a paraplegic living on income support and disability benefit, who was facing repossession by CMC after he took out a loan arranged by Capital Credit.

Credit; Antony Murtagh and Roy Leslie Clayton, have previously survived OFT sanction. Both were directors of eight companies associated with Richard Murtagh [Antony's father] Holdings. whose consumer credit licences were withdrawn by the OFT for deceitful and oppressive lending in 1989. Capital Credit, formerly called Carrox won an appeal against the OFT.

In August, David Steene, CMC managing director, sup-ported Capital Credit's right to trade. Yesterday the lender said it was reviewing its relationship with the company. It has already terminated its links with Charles Ashworth.

ANALOGOT TIMESOUTE

Ski France — Les Arcs



Plus FREE 6-day ski lift pass and ski/boot hire

Leisure Direction in association with Ski France Univernational is offering Times readers an exclusive selection of ski holidays to celebrate the launch of the new direct high-speed rail links to the

Alps. Travel from Waserino or Ashford on Eurosta Travel from Waterloo or Ashford on Eurostar non-stop to the French Alps and stay in the superbresort of Les Arcs. Renowned for great door-to-door skiing, a lively atmosphere and superb facilities. Les Arcs is set in a massive ski area with 150km of piste, including the Varet Glacier. Ideal for all levels of skiing, with 13 green beginners stopes. 44 easy blue runs, 37 intermediate red runs, and 18 testing black runs, including the 16km Aiguille Rouge, mogula and superb off-piste for advanced skiers. Village level 1800m; highest point 3226m. MARVA LATTIUDES FIOTEL DU GOLF

The three-star Hosel du Gotf, based in Arc 1900 is approximately 30 minutes from the Eurostar station and centrally located within the resort at the foot of the pistes. Facilities include four restaurants, a bar, sauna and fitness room. All rooms have private shower or bath, television, minibar and

CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR SPECIAL

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Children under the age of three years travel free. Discount of 50-80% available for up to two children from the ages of four to eleven years. The resort offers excellent kindergarten and childrens chibs.

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Readicut to sell off £50m of businesses

By Martin Barrow

READICUT INTERNATIONAL, the UK textiles company, yesterday announced a wide-ranging restructuring that will culminate with the disposal of businesses with a value of about £50

The company is selling its European Carpets subsidiary — UK and Dutch carpet businesses that trade under the Firth, JHS and Vebe banners - to Interface Inc, a US group, for £30

.

million. In the year to March 31, European Carpets earned operating profits of £2.9 million, up from £1.4 million

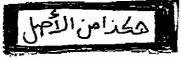
Readicut said it was also close to announcing the sale of Bloomsburg Carpet Industries in America and the yarn-spinning business of Stonehouse Battye in the UK in separate transactions. Funds from the disposals will be reinvested in Readicur's wallcoverings. fibres and home products activities, which generate higher profit margins.

The company announced a £5 million investment in a new wallcoverings factory next to its existing fibres facility Readicut hopes to replicate the

success of its fibres unit in America, which was established last year at a cost of about £17 million. The venture. a supplier to the US automotive industry, holds the number two position in its market, and is to benefit from a further investment of £2 million to expand capacity by 20 per cent.

Readicut expects to incur a £3 million loss on the disposals. Accounts for the year to the end of March 1998 will also include about £27 million relating to goodwill previously written off to reserves.

Readicut reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £4.5 million from £3.3 million for the six months to the end of September. Earnings of 1.48p a share compared with 1.12p previously. The interim dividend is unchanged at



Could the future be fabulous | Foxon hounds for Baker and his IT boys?

Chris Ayres looks at the confident character behind the rise of Glotel

here is a common disease in the City which, from time to time, seems to affect all industries. Biotechnology companies, media ventures and businesses that use celebrities to boost their profiles. suffer the most.

The affliction, called hype, is currently causing delirium in the information technology sector. Andy Baker, the precocious 32-year-old founder and chief executive of Glotel, an up-and-coming IT recruitment

company, is hype personified.

I don't think there is anything that pays more or is as exciting as the IT market." he enthuses from his Soho office. We have never had a bad debt in our history and never will. You can't have bad debts in this business."

Glotel is one of the many companies making a fortune out of the chronic shortage of qualified IT professionals in the City. The infamous millennium bug, which is expected to cost £400 billion to fix worldwide, plus the task of altering computer systems to recognise the European single currency. have both helped to boost

It is estimated that there is a shortfall of up to 50,000 computer software experts in Britain, and that the City could take an extru 5,000 professionals overnight. There are believed to be about 600,000 computer specialists working in the UK, with about 700 of them being supplied by Glotel. "If you have a niche



Netherlands.

looking after the new breed of

ultra-arrogant - and predom-

inantly male - boffins that the

IT industry has snawned. It

finds them the best jobs, and

bids up their salaries, taking a



specialisation, if you're a millennium project manager, you're going to be in huge demand." says Mr Baker. "Ten, twenty or thirty companies will be interested in your services. You can pretty much quote what you want."

Mr Baker, who began his career as a salesman in the IT industry after failing his A-levels, founded Glotel in 1989 when he was 25. Since then, the company's average annual growth has been 77 per cent. and the company now has sales of £49 million and profits of £1.8 million. It was recently rated as one of the fastest

growing private UK com-panies by Price Waterhouse. hefty 23 per cent cut for itself. Mr Baker thinks the boom Glotel, which employs 200 will go on forever. internal staff, has achieved

this growth entirely organicalbillion-pound business," he ly, and plans to float on the says, as if calculating the chance of night following day. Stock Exchange within the next two years. It has also "in the world today the two managed to set-up successful biggest markets are the IT and operations in the US, Austratelecoms industry, and the lia. Singapore and The temporary labour industry. We're in both.' The company specialises in

The key is for us to have more jobs, in more locations. with more technical coverage than any other company. If we floated and our growth slowed down we would then look at buying companies to add on to

services we do at the moment." Mr Baker, whose parents still live in a council flat, makes "Loadsamoney" look like a Liberal Democrat. His political hero is Norman Tebbit, and he is fond of the phrase "posh socialist bastards". He is evangelical about the benefits of not going to university and says he wants to become as famous as Bill Gates, the

its hard to decide who are the most arrogant; the IT professionals themselves, or the people who headhunt them. After all, it is as normal for a 22-year-old IT recruitment officer to earn £60,000 a year, as it is for a 19-year-old systems analyst to earn £500 a day. None of them seem to believe that the bubble will

"The average salary in this industry is still only £1,200 a week," laments Mr Baker. "But if you go into one of the merchant banks in the City and watch the staff coming out able to tell the IT people from the dealers."

The ability of young IT professionals to earn so much money has been created partly by the speed at which technology is changing, as well as a shortage of skills. Mr Baker

off the Internet you may as well place an advert yourself. Bits of paper mean nothing. All you're getting off the internet is a piece of paper. What's the big deal there?"

It is difficult to see through billionaire Microsoft founder. the hype of Glotel, and decide whether it is more than just

proof."

another enthusiastic start-up, operating in a rapidly expand-ing industry. The laws of economics suggest that the shortage of IT labour will be filled, margins will fall, and competition, even in developing economies, will become intense. Until then, Mr Baker and his cohorts should enjoy their money while it lasts, Although, of course, he doesn't believe it will end.

market, straight out of univer-

sity, and spend 18 months

working on some hot new

database, your experience in

that market is as much experi-

ence as anyone has. You could

have a 47-year-old who's been

in the market 25 years, but if

that database has been out

could soon disappear.

"This market is so massive," he says. "You'll soon be able to from home, see your Granny on the videophone, do all your work from your car, and you'll probably want to holiday in Mars rather than Tenerife. All these things that are going to happen are related to IT and

IN THE

HOT

ALMOST two years on from the Granada takeover, and senior Forte executives left from the old days are almost as thin on the ground as people called Forte. All the adder, therefore, to hear (via an internal memo) that Martea Foxon, Forte's property director for the past eight years, is striking out and going solo. Foxon's departure. unusual at Granada for being of his own volition, comes now his job, the sale of Exclusive Hotels, is largely completed. Although Lazards took the

credit for offloading such fam-

only 18 months, his knowledge ous names as the George V in is going to be no better than that of a 22-year-old." Paris, the Sandy Lane in Barbados and London's Hyde The biggest threat to Glotel. Park hotel, those in the know and other companies like it, is credit Foxon with keeping the that as the IT market grows, process going at a cracking the competition between suppace. For example, when the pliers of labour will also grow. Sultan of Brunei's bid for the The margins of 23 per cent that George V bogged down, it was Glotel is currently enjoying he who persuaded a rival moneybags, Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal of Saudi Arabia, to There's well over a thousand companies in this market doing what we do, "admits Mr find £104 million at a mo-Baker. "Even though the IT ment's notice. people are hard to find, the clients are hard to find too.

because they will get about 50 calls a week from companies ☐ WHITHER Dick Emery, they ask at the BBC? He land is there some reason why he like us trying to get business." should not bear the name?) is Although the competition is chief operating officer of BBC Worldwide, the commercial tough, especially in Britain, it still has a long way to go. However, Glotel always has arm. Many thought he would be a shoo-in to replace Bob Phillis, now chairman of the the option to look overseas. where the market is in an even Guardian Media Group, as earlier stage of development. Mr Baker says: "The margins head of Worldwide. In recent overseas are much higher. years at the BBC he was re-They can be as high as 27 per sponsible for negotiations on cent. And because we are the Corporation's big new worldwide, we are recessioncommercial ventures, the links with Discovery Communica-tions and Flextech, Unfortu-nately the BBC deciced that a job of such importance would

The other threat is the Internet, where IT professionals can advertise their services without the need for a recruithave to be tested in the market ment company. But Mr Baker is not worried. "You still need ie put out to head hunters. The question is whether Emery interview people," he says. will hang around or whether "If you go around pulling CVs offers may come from either Discovery or Fleatech, companies known for making their minds up rather more quickly than the Beeb.

> Older model IF YOUR husband works in the City and he airily lets sin that he is arranging a corpo-rate hospitality bash with an outfit called Hurtwood, start worrying. A friend has seen the brochure now doing the rounds. All-inclusive football packages, chauffeur-driven super-stretch limos, it promises. Oh, and "the finest selection of Playboy, Page Threeand celebrity models", although, and I put this as charitably as I can, their best days

> > ON THURSDAY Grand Metropolitan announced its

as models would appear from

be behind them. "All packages

can be imaginatively created

to meet your individual de-

mands - there are no limits."



last figures as an independent company before the merger with Guinness. So it was the last time George Bull, the GrandMet chairman, would be in sole command. At the same time a horse was romping home at 20 to 1 at Windsor, its name was George Buil. Don't ask me what it all

Thrown back

SOME cheerful news from the Far East for a change. A budget-cutting plan prompted by Thailand's economic crisis threatened some 200 government employees. The board and lodging they had enjoyed for years, at a cost of about £250 a month, was at risk from an eight-point austerity plan. But after a protest from fellow employees, the 200 colourful Japanese carp which occupy a pond at the Thai parliament won a reprieve. "Most of the measures were reasonable and practical, but the number eight measure dealing with the fish was seen as unacceptable by staff," said a parliamentary source.

Horror story

A NEW bogeyman is borns Chris Smith, Heritage Secre-tary, at this week's Media Society diamer. "If anyone gives me any trouble I just tell them I'll get Gerald Kaniman to write a report on them."

MARTIN WALLER

Norwas ! "

Els.

Act Garage



the company founded by his older brother Tony to start his

where he had developed

opencast mining — set in train

Richard's success and cast a

cloud over his commercial

reputation. AF Budge Went

into receivership, with more

than £90 million of debts,

soon after Richard left and the

brothers' behaviour as direc-

tors came under attack. While

Tony, his wife Janet and

own mining company. The move from AF Budge -

Coal king proves tough nut

Ring Coal and its bete noire. He has both saved coal mining in the UK and recklessly endangered it with a game of brinkmanship and politics, depending on whose view you seek.
On his decisions the future

of a large part of the English coal industry now rests. That industry is staring over a cliff edge that in April threatens to wipe out up to eight collieries if sufficient coal sales are not made to shore up the shortfall in deals made with two of the largest electricity generators. The forore created by Labour backbenchers, the unions and, privately, by Cabinet members over impending pit closures has bounced the Govcrument into imposing a moratorium on new gas-fired stations. While that will do nothing in the short term. it does at least signal a possible

future for coal. Since the Government's decision, Budge has spoken more optimistically. He says: We have business plans for all the collieries but we are dependent on the market." He is hopeful of exports that could plug the gap between sales to National Power and Eastern, and RJB's capacity. Some of the heat could be leaving the coal crisis after the political clash satisfied one of Budge's key objectives — that the Government should deliver some sort of energy policy

in which coal has a role The policy change is more ecognition of the political fallout from pit closures, late though it dawned than Budge's stance. But the fact that the coal contract negotiations have gone right up to the wire underline Budge's reputation as a hard bargainer prepared to take on the Goverument on the highly emotive issue of coal.

The picture of Budge is a mixed one. Many of his miners praise him as a businessman who wants to talk to them at the coelface and he



Born Lincolnshire; aged 50. Educated at grammar school. Career in road construction and opencast mining with brother's company, which went into receivership. 1992: Founded RIB Mining. 1994: Bought the bulk of the collieries in England and Wales.

makes many descents to the hot, dark factory floor of RJB Mining. In dealings with the generators and the Department of Trade and Industry, he is often cited as a man who plays cynical games with min-

There are real fears among the coal unions that Budge could be stalling and will not announce coal dosures until after March 31, when his

Richard Budge holds future of miners in his hands

responsibility for substantial redundancy payments ends. Speculation is rife that Mr Budge has dangled the pitclosure sword over the Government's head for some time. Allegedly he held out the prospect of an announcement as Tony Blair was poised to deliver his speech to the Labour Party conference. He denies this.

John Battle, the Energy Minister, has made increasingly obvious his annoyance with Budge. The minister has personalised much of the coal Crisis and potential pit clo-sures as the direct responsibility of Budge. Budge says he never tried to engineer a crisis. "The problem is that 85 per cent of the contracts ended at the same time. We have been talking to the generators for a long time."

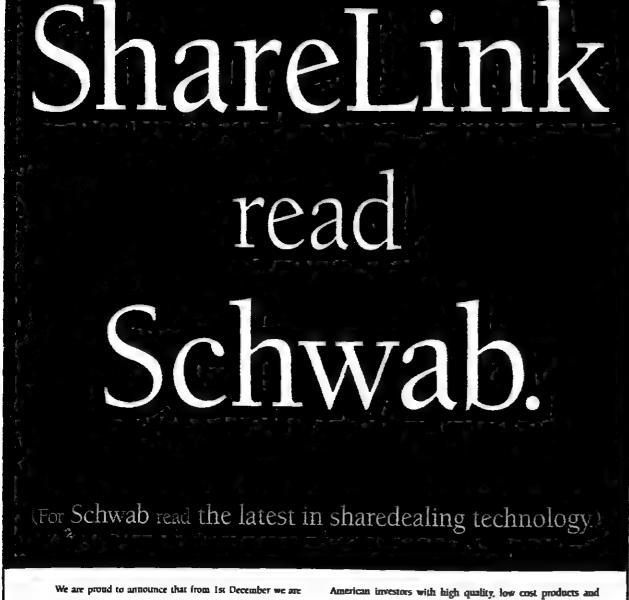
Whether or not it has been politically astute to personalise the crisis, there is no doubt that the emphasis has had resonance. Despite Budge's reluctance to court a high public profile he has acquired one, and opinions about him, though they differ, are strongly held. Budge has refused to respond to increasingly personal attacks by Mr Battle. "He (Mr Battle) obviously thinks he has done what

is the best job," he says. Budge began his dimb to business fame and notoriety

another director, Michael Yates, were disqualified by the DTL the case against Richard was dropped. He had been attacked for taking out loans from the company but said the money was owed to him. He repaid to the receiver £325,000 of the £400,000 he had in loans. The case against Richard was dropped in 1995 when RJB Mining, the company he began from the purchase of the £100 million of mining assets from his brother's business, became the pre-ferred bidder for the bulk of the English and Welsh coilieries. Questions were asked in the Commons

about his suitability. udge's early days at the helm were rosy. Profitbelm were rosy. ability came through quickly and RJB was able to repay some of its debis early. Critics who had mocked Budge for paying too high a price for the collieries, at £815 million, went on to complain that he had paid too little. Last year he made £2.2 million by selling 400,000 shares in a share buyback, although he still retains 3.6 million shares. Then his pay rose 62 per cent in a performance-related

package to £666,000. While the threat to coal from the dash-for-gas was eroding the expected lifespan of coal, nobody expected a Labour Government would let that happen. They expected wrong - until this week



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BREAD THE STAND IN SCHOOL COMMENDER CONTROL OF THE TONDOR STOCK PACE AND LITTLAY INCOME AND AND ADDRESS OF THE TONDORS AND ADDRES









MICHAEL CLARK Stock Market Writer

40 at 2880.

of 42lp this year.

Brokers reported further se-

lective buying of the specialist

chemical companies as the sector continued to enjoy

something of a re-rating in the

wake of the recent ilurry of bid

activity. Allied Colloids, cur-

rently fighting off the unwant-

ed attentions of Hercules in the US, finished lp lighter at

168½p, while profit taking trimmed Holiday Chemicals 1p, to 233½p after receiving a

bid approach this week. Brent

International firmed lp to

1062 p. and Laporte 3p to

6382 p. Peter Edwards at ABN

AMRO Hoare Govett, the

broker, says consolidation

within the industry has begun

Torakins fell 64p to 306p

amid signs that institutional

investors have begun switch-

ing into Williams, 41-p cheap-

☐ GILT EDGED: Opening

falls were accelerated by the

latest US non-farm payroll

numbers with losses stretch-

ing by up to El at the longer end. Prices in London followed

US Treasury bonds lower as

the prospect of a rise in US

interest rates came back to

In the futures pit, the March

series of the Long Gilt lost £11/16 to close at £11911/32 as

the total number of contracts

completed reached 90,000.

Among conventional issues.

Treasury 8 per cent 2021 shed

El at El182, while among

7 per cent 2002 was E4 off at £100²⁹/₃₂.

INEW YORK: Shares held

firm as the shock of November

payroll figures faded, with

investors confident that the

Federal Reserve Board would

not raise interest rates. At

trial average was up 81.32

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

midday, the Dow Jones indus-

points at 8,131.48.

in Europe.

er at 350 2 p.

haunt investors.

Strong finish — but best yet to come, say brokers

on a high note after a helterskelter performance that left investors breathless.

Encouraged by Wall Street's resilience in the face of stronger than expected US employment numbers, the London market staged a 130.0-point turnround before closing below its best levels of the day.

in the event, the FISE 100 Index finished 60.6 points up. at 5.142.9, stretching the lead on the week to 311.1, or 6,43 per cent. But brokers say the best is still to come and claim the market is capable of a further 100-point rise during the early part of next week. For reassurance they look to the financial future, where the March series closed with a 52point premium over the cash

The buyers appeared to be acquiring stock at any price last night as they compared the premium between the two markets. There is no point in fighting it. You have got to go with it," said one broker.

Once again it was the banks that led the way. They remain a hot-bed of speculation with a single buyer of National Westminster Bank forcing the price 144 p higher at 940p as 6.23 million shares changed hands. Speculators say this week's disposal of its global equities arm leaves the company vulnerable to an

It is already known to have talked with Abbey National, up 15p at £10.10, Barclays, 16p hetter at £15.46, and Prudential, 3p cheaper at 706p.

Lloyds TSB rose 28p to 760p with the help of some positive comments from SBC Warburg Dillon Read, the broker. Lloyds has been been mentioned as a possible bidder for Norwich Union, down 13p at 380p on profit-taking.

Elsewhere in the financial sector. General Accident leapt 52p to £11.30.

Reuters jumped a further 2112p to 7312p reflecting this week's decision to give back £1.5 billion to shareholders by way of a complicated share huv-back scheme. Henderson Crasthwaite, the broker, met the company yesterday and was clearly impressed with the outcome. Trading remains trong despite the group's exposure to the troubled Far East markets,

Henderson is confident that a lot of the cash will eventually find its way back into the shares before, and after, the



Peter Job, chief executive of Reuters, up 21 2p at 731 2p

payout in February.
BTR's fifth profits warning

in just over three years was greeted with dismay in the Square Mile and left the shares nursing a loss of 2512p at 18212 p. The company said profits are now likely to be in line with the E601 million achieved in the first six months. The market had been looking for something more

8622p. Whispers circulating within the Square Mile suggest the group is about to tie-up a deal with Conoco and Socar, the Azerbaijan state oil company, to redevelop the shallow Guneshii Field.

Keep an eye on Vodafone. where attempts this week to call the shares lower have failed miserably. The price was racing away again yester-

Billiton rose 71 ap to 155p after talking to institutional shareholders. It seems to have convinced them that things are not as bad as they were led to believe. Joint brokers UBS and Robert Fleming are both rushing out "buy" circulars. The price has come back from a peak of 2491ap.

rewarding. It blamed the strong pound and the downturn in Far Eastern markets.

Bass staged a comeback, with a jump of 372p at 92lp. A "buy" recomendation from BZW helped. Analyst James Carnegie is pushing the shares despite a dull set of profits earlier this week. He is pinning his hopes on the brewer making an exciting

acquisition at some stage.
In the oil sector, Rames Energy surged 62½p to day to close 112p higher at a new peak of 4032p with "buy" recommendations from the likes of Société Générale Strauss Turnbull, Merrill Lynch and SBC Warburg.

Behind Vodafone's rise during the early part of the week was persistent talk about a bid for the company with American Telephone and Telegraph tipped as a potential suitor.

The buying also spilled over into rival Orange, up llp at 264p, with Securicor, report-

MOVERS	OF THE WEEK
Mayborn Group	**************************************

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): Hong Kong: ' Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt Singapore Straks Brussels Puris

There was a further decline in the fortunes of logica, the troubled telecoms group, Zurich which shed a further 5p at 102½p, stretching the loss on the week to 13½p, as institutional selling was revived. It follows last month's disap-FT 30 FTSE 100 pointing trading news which offered brokers little hope for the future. The shares have now come down from a peak Caradon rose 15p to 19lp as the company continued to buy back its own shares. Cazenove the broker, acting on its behalf has snapped up a further 1.75 million at 187p.

RPIX 157 9 Oct (2.8%) Jan 1987=100 RECENT ISSUES

ESDR 159.5 Oct (2.7%) Jan 1987=100

Advance UK 7st	1015	+
BC .B.	30 ¹ :	
Boustead	21	
CRC	1251:	+
Capital Opps Tst	11312	
Cresco Inti	1531:	
Firmg Geared Uts	721:	
Foresight Tech Wts	25	-
Foresight Tech	85	-
Metalsrussia	73'2	
Minorplanet Sys	575	
Northern Recrimini	1215	+
Nottingham Frst (70)	54	
Range Cooker Cmpy	θ_{l}	
Rapid Technology	9813	
Savoy Asset Mingmi	1135	
Seascope Shipping	2515	-
Tetra	175	

RIGHTS ISSUES

FI Group n/p (640) 205 Green Prop n/p (350) 30

MAJOR CHANGES

. 249'sp (~20pt

	London Clubs	. ∠oab (+ i∻b
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1	Tesco	531'ap (+24p)
	DC\$ Gp	259':p (±11p
1	Orange	264p (+11p)
1	Bass	921p (+371:pi
ı	Close Bros	521'-p (+21p)
ı	Gunness	572p (+23p)
ı	De La Rue '	417'so (+16p)
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1	Shell	(م: 15 +) ط354
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	Brit Biotech	261 tp (-11p) 440p (-17tp) 280p (-13p) 869p (-19p) 500p (-10p) 500p (-10p) 735p (-12tp)

Closing Prices Page 26

Low

104.36 163.23

104.33 103.47

11063 4124)

Open High

104.35

TEMPUS

Bumpy ride for BTR

per, there is little new aluminium smelting capaci-

ty expected. Massive dump-

ing of the metal by Russian

producers in 1993 led to a

YEARS AGO, when BTR's star was ascendant, people used to say that a diverse portfolio spread the risk. If one market or product took a tumble, you could be sure of a gain elsewhere. Today. BTR is determined to deny us roundabouts to balance the swings. Everywhere you look, there is a problem.

In its fifth profit warning in three years, sterling is the main complaint but the market should have had some understanding of the effect of translating, say Australian dollar earnings into pounds, given the 20 per cent depreciation of that currency against sterling, But the real worry is competitiveness and plummeting demand. In contrast to Siebe, . which recently went bullish on Europe. BTR is seeing little recovery from the Continent and the company's 5000 million of exports from the UK are struggling to make headway.

Meanwhile the strong pound is promoting import substitution, ruining the home patch, Overseas, things are bad but for different reasons. The financial collapse in Asia is tuining the consumer markets into which BTR sells. Australian transmission units are not finding buyers in the automotive industries of Korea and Indonesia. Likewise, Brazil's interest rate hike is hammerine

demand for new cars and BTR components. The conclusion is that the streamlined BTR engineering group is uncompetitive, in the wrong location and selling into rotten markets. The husiness to be sold, packaging and laminates, will struggle to make £2.5-£3 hillion and investors are left with an uninspiring rump. ETR will be loathe to cut the dividend again but with profits falling to \$1 billion next year, the cover dues not look comfortable.

its assets in aluminium and

an efficient new smelter in

South Africa, is in a powerful

position. The nagging worry

is that weakness in Japan

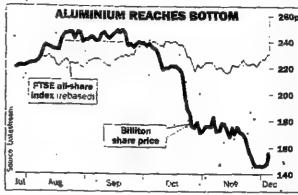
Billiton

BILLITON has been punished enough. The company's arrogance and a frothy market initially priced the stock at a premium to Rio Tinto. leader of the mining sector. Perversely, the mar-ket then sold Billiton heavily, leaving it valued at about ien times June 1999 earnings. against a multiple of 14 times for Rio Tinto.

Falling base metals prices are partly to blame but the stock market has tended to lump everything in with the weak copper price. Rio is heavily exposed to the latter metal, which suffers from the prospect of increased production from Latin America.

Aluminium's prospects are somewhat different. The metals markets have seen the aluminium price begin to decouple from the tumbling value of copper. Unlike cop-

price collapse and linle inand the Far East - which vestment. However, many account for 25 per cent of now believe that aluminium demand - will depress the has bottomed out at 73 cents price further. But even asper lh while copper has suming nil growth from further to go. If that is the Japan. Billiton is looking case. Billiton, which has half cheap at these levels. **ALUMINIUM REACHES BOTTOM** FTSE all-shan



London Clubs

ALAN GOODENOUGH, the head of London Clubs, thinks that his Far Eastern highrollers are so rich that even a little local financial meltdown will not keep them out of his casinos. His confidence is engaging, but not quite convincing given the dependence on a few hig-time players. Ladbroke is less sanguine and recently gave warning that some of its Far Eastern punters were being put off by the fall in Asian markets.

Yesterday's figures from London Clubs demonstrate the volatility of the gaming business. Although interim El9.9 million to El4.4 million on smaller win percentages. the subsequent nine weeks have seen London Clubs more than recover the ground.

The solution is to spread risk. Frustrated by the Government in its bid for Capital Corporation and impatient with the slow process of de-

DOLLAR RATES

regulation. London Clubs is forced to look abroad for diversification. Competition for foreign licences is fierce, and nailing down deals takes time, but if the Aladdin project in Las Vegas is typical, the rewards of downmarket gambling are worth waiting for.

If you can stomach the volatility. London Clubs is. on a longer view, worth backing.

Dana

THE cavalry of the West's oil industry is now thundering across the Russian steppes. with BP and Shell striking deals with big Russjan oil and gas combines. Amid all the frantic activity, it is worth remembering that the industry scouts have been camping in Siberia for some time. One of these is Dana Petroleum, a diminutive oil explorer with large ambitions. Working alongside major Russian

companies such as Lukoil,

Yukos and Tyumen. Dana

has built itself an interesting stake at the heart of the Western Siberian oilfields. Dana has amassed a 10 per

cent share in a private Siberian joint stock company. Evikhon, with interests in a humber of large qilfields, including a half-share in 'Salym, which has reserves of about one billion barrels. Salvm is subject to a joint venture with Shell, which is expected-to get Russian parliamentary approval this

Meanwhile, Dana's takeover of Seafield last summer has given it control of a huge offshore block in Ghana which surrounds an existing gas discovery. Dana hopes to bring in Russian partners to explore the African acreage. with the guid pro quo of more deals in Siberia.

Russian oil is as much about politics as geology, and is therefore high risk, but Dana's position in Evikhon

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WALL STREET

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		COMMODITIES		LONDON
	UFFE COCOA 150 1025-1161 Mar [143-1440	ICIS-LOR (Leadon 6.00pm) CRUDE O'LLS S/barrel FOB) Brent Physical	GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES LIFFE WHEAT Glose UN Glose UN 75.00	Long Gilt Previous open Interest 202530 German Govt Bond (Bund)
	Mar	Brent IS day (Feb) 10.25 +0.10 W Texas Intermediate (feb) 19.75 +0.10 W Texas Intermediate (Feb) 19.00 +0.10 PRODUCTS 6/MTh	Mar	Previous open Interest 270675 German Govt Bond (Bobl) Previous open Interest 14512
	76c 1121-1120 Volume 3902 ROBLISTA COFFEE (8) 140 1770-1740 Sep 1720-1715	Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)	LIFFE POTATO (£/9) Open Close Mar	Italian Govt Bond (BTP) Previous open interest 110373
1	Mar 175-1755 Nov	Premium Unid 187 (+1) 190 (+1) 173 (+1) 173 (+1) 173 (+1) 175 (+1) 1	Apr 107.0 10.0 miy miy miq 130.0 Volume: 63	Japanese Govt Bond (JGB) Three Mth Sterling
	WHITE SUGAR (FDB) Reusers Oct	Nephtha	RUBBER (No 1 RSS CII p/liq 125 47.25-47.75	Previous open inserest 801500
	51ar 1[0] +00 7 Mar = 1317.4-10.0 Mar 1[0.4-14.7 May = 315.0-10.0 May 747.5-10.5 Volume: 1435	Dec 164.50-64.75 Mar . 165.25-65.50 Jan 166.00-66.25 Apr 164.50-65.00	LIFFE BIPPEX (GNI Ltd \$10/pt) High Low Close	Three Mth Euromark Previous open interest 1902786 Three Mth Eurolira
	MENT'S LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	Peb 165.75-60.00 Vol. 12262	Det 97 1250 1236 1250 1341 1250 1345 1340 1325 1340 1325 1340 1325 1340 1340 1340 1340 1355 1350 1350 1350 1350	Previous open Interest 571130 Three Mth Euroswiss Previous open Interest 16461
	Average luctuck prince at representative markets in December 4 mrae lwi Pig Sheep Castle	Feb 18.15 BID May 18.13-18.30 Mar	Vol: 78 Joss Open Interest: 1589	Three Mth ECU Previous open interest 39210
	(100	Copper Gde A Shonge) Chile: 1872.0	METAL EXCHANGE Redeff Wolff -1813.0 Seeffi: 1812.0-1843.0 Vel: 1434000 -525.00 542.50-543.00 177750	FTSE 100 Previous open Intéges e4413
	17.1 -2.40 -2.31 -2.00 -2.10	Zine Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne) 1100-5- Tin (\$/tonne) 5790.0	1110.5 1133.0-1133.5 17779 5705.0 5650.0-5650.0 17335 1566.0 1588.0-1588.5 1735460	Mol
	1, 200.			Base Rates: Clearing Banks 7% Discount Market Lames: O/night Treasury Bills (Dis): Bug: 2 mth 7
	Sparse Jun Apr Set Jun Apr Set	7:955-7) 1900 16 43 569-544-744-88 Variations 350 389-51 369-717 27-73 17-40-94 470 21 389-49 37-47-48 Washington 360 214-289-349-6 127-16 173(2) 350 77-157-207-217-235-32 2004-6 1900 1369-1909-246 47 827-1017-17-1827-2004 481-1909-246 47 827-1017-17-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1827-2004-881-1909-246 47 827-1017-1017-1017-1017-1017-1017-1017-10	Products 702 56 73's 91's 32's 54 67's 12's 750 34's 50's 68's 64's 64's 95's 95's 88's 64's 64's 95's 96's 96's 96's 96's 96's 96's 96's 96	Prime Bank Bills (Did: 7%7 Sterling Money Rates: 7%-7%-7% Interbank: 7%-close 7 Logal Authority Depts: 7
ž	Walker 750 47 671 79 20 8 421 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 11 1	Sation Feb Blay Aug Feb Bay Aug BTP 188 15 27: 27 127 19 22 (*160*s) 220 9 15 19* Ni 5 31* 34*	(256) 350 95 165 23 24 37 355 1855 1855 35 46 805 715 12 22 23 (5275) 550 255 38 46 345 46 53 10 48 882 200 257 36 38 45 9 11 (7205) 220 115 147 156 11 157 255	Sterfing CDe: 7 to 7 Dollar CDe: 5.9 Building Society CDs: 7 to 7 TREASURY BILLS: Applets: 159
	Fig. 10 (4) (10) (7) (39) 43 525 525 525 53 10 (4) (7) (8) (8) (8) (8) (8) (8) (8) (8) (8) (8	9to Crc 350 33 42 M 117 17 277 (7545) 350 M 27 30 35 327 357 8: Asr 1500 141 184 225 53 627 1047 (71652) 1700 885 123 1757: 577 130 1527	Suries line libr Jun live libr Jun 86 PLC 283 147; 297; 347; 4 137; 177; 1797; 365; 4 137; 177; 1797; 365; 4 138; 177; 1797; 376; 376; 377; 1797; 376; 376; 377; 1797; 376; 376; 376; 376; 376; 376; 376; 37	Last week: \$98.215% received: 56% £ 100m.

| 257 | 187 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 | 188 (现象是各种的的形式的主题的记者自然是是有一种知识的是这种形式的分析是中心是两种主题的形式的对象的形式 的中国的1777年的1777年的1777的内部的1787年 FTSE BESEX Mor. 3764 - 48 343 - -3111, 42 2797 - -2477 - 36 747 - 36 1937 - 30 170 144: 162 180 195's 217's 239's 254 Jan 71 84 97'2 117'-730'3 162'-193's 267: 343 381 381 323 prints Am (237) 201 205:2

German Govt Bond (Bobl) Previous open Interest 14512 IOLO4 IOL06 IOS.58 Italian Govt Bond (BTP) [30,34 | 130.41 | 2442 [30.13 | 130,244,208 Japanese Govt Bond (JGB) ME32 92.33 92.26 92.29 12443

Previous open interest			42.79	42.39	42.26	43.36	
	801900	Mar 4 . Jun 4 .	02.35	42.36	42.30	02.31	14166
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Previous open interest	1912794	Marek .	90.06	PR 11	40.05	40.00	73219
Three Mth Euroli			43 97		92,94	NI/N	
Previous open Interest	M 22 1571 130	Dec 97 Mar 48 .	94.74	94 75	94.70	94.72	9776 14771
•			_				
Three Mth Euros	WISE	Dec %	95.17	99.23	100,17	30 SU	3447 3775
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Three Mth ECU		Dec 97	45.47	95,47	45.44	95 4n	267
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FTSE 100		Dec 97	5081.0	5395.0	50M0.0	4 (160 ()	14917
Previous open Intérest	89413	Mar Hi	5128.0	\$247.0	5124.0	5236 5	2106
美国发展的 1.15年代			ا ماننا	10.13			
表對法案	T. P. BRUPLE	T-MA	152	[26]	-	٠.	
Base Rates: Clearing	Banks 7% Fi	nance Hs	e 7'z				
Discount Market Lo	ame Ofnight h	igh: 7 w	1	Low b's		Week (t	ned: 7'-
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	1 mile	رائدس 2	3	auth .	6 196		12 mile
Prime Bank Bills (D	isk 7'-7's	7"1:-7	r _{er}	75-75			
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Interbunk: Overright: open ?	7°2-7°4	7*-7	The state of	?" _~ -?\	70-	0	7-7"0
Local Authority Dep			/a	21.		7***	714
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Building Society CD		7°-7		7%-7%			
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Doller: Dospehemark:	5*\u-5*\u 3*\u-3	61-57 31-31	e 5	بانت. 2°43′ ه	5":- 3"e	3.	5%4% 4-3
Doller: Despelienzell: Francis Franci	5*\u-5*e 3*e-3 3*e-3*.	61e-514 31-31 31 ₈ -31	e 5	""(3"r-3"s "sr-3"s	5" in 3" a 3" an		5%4". 4-3 3 - 2".
Dellari Destribenselli French Franci Swie Franci	5%5% 3%3 3%3 1%4	6%-5% 3%-3% 3%-3%	e 5	Parity Parity Parity	5" or 3" or 3" or, 1" or	- - (4) - (5) - (7) - (7)	5%4% 4-3 3 - 2% 17-25
Doller: Despelienzell: Francis Franci	5*\u-5*e 3*e-3 3*e-3*.	61e-514 31-31 31 ₈ -31	e 5	""(3"r-3"s "sr-3"s	5" or 3" or 3" or, 1" or		5%4". 4-3 3 - 2".
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Dellier: Despelementh: French Franc. Sould Franc. Yes: GGLD/F Bullion: Open \$287.1 Low: \$286.3	5'45'6 3'-3 3'-9'4 1'-1' PECIGU 0'28740 Closs 1'28640 AM:	6'-5'- 3'-3'- 1''-1'- -par S.ME \$287,60 \$287.05	FALS	(Bai	5" or 3" or	交 変 か か で Co)	5%4% 4-3 3 - 2% 17-25
Dallier Desorbemark: Peanch Franc. Sold Franc. Year GCLD/F Bullion: Open \$287.1 Low: \$286.3 Krugerrand: \$296.00	5° 10° 5° 10° 3° -3° 3° -3° 11° 11° 11° 11° 11° 11° 11° 11° 11° 1	6'-5'-3'-3'-3'-3'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'-1'	FALS 280, IO	(Bai High:	5" or 3" or 1" or	7. 7. 7. 1. 1. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 2. 3. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4. 4.	5'er. 43 3 -2'. 1'2': 1-par
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Delier: Dest-clematik: Feesch Franc: Swite Franc: Ven: GCLD/F Bullion: Open \$287.11 Low: \$286.35 Krugerrand: \$286.00 Platinum: \$383.50 (2)	91-51- 31-3 31-9- 11-11- 11-11- 11-11- 11-11- 11-11- 11-11-	6-5-7-34-37-3-7-3-7-3-7-3-7-3-7-3-7-3-7-3-7	FORT	(Bai High:	5"	Co)	5'-4'. 4-3 3-2'. 1'-2: 1-par
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Newborn baby taken from mother

A three-hour-old baby was snatched from her cot at her sleeping mother's side in a modern hospital maternity ward by a woman who managed to evade its elaborate security system. The 6lb 15oz girl, Karli, was born by caesarian section at 9.50am and her father, Karl Hawthorne, was telephoning relatives to break the news when she was snatched from Basildon General Hospital, Essex at 12.50pm Pages 1, 2

Robinson to face watchdog inquiry

■ The Parliamentary standards watchdog is to investigate whether Geoffrey Robinson, the Paymaster General, should have declared a multimillion-pound offshore trust in the Commons Register of Members' Interests..... Pages 1, 4

Life sentence

A senior RAF officer who murdered his wife over his infatuation with a young Serbian interpreter bagan a life sentence.....Pages 1. 3

Pedal power

MPs are to get pedalling, with the introduction of an allowance for using their bicycles in the course of parliamentary duties Page 5

Killer rapist A rape victim aged 9 was mur-

dered after she told her attacker that she was going to tell her

Vitamin battle

Acampaign has been launched by thousands of women who take the vitamin Bo after the Government announced plans to ban the supplement. ..Page 9

Football mania

Since Iran's underdogs drew with Scotland in 1978, only the blind or foolish dismiss their football, says ...Page ii

Prison love

Love will bloom in French prisons under a plan to build mini-apartments for congugal visits Page 13

Mrs Mandela setback The ambitions of Winnie Madikizels-Mandela face a big

setback this weekend when the African National Congress Women's League is expected to withdraw its support..... __ Page 14 Bomber jailed

An animal-rights bomber who carried out arson attacks on stores across the South of England was

Victim of success Superintendent Mallon must wonder whether he is yet another

high-profile policeman who is a victim of his own success Page 16

Armagh landmark In the heart of the bandit country of South Armagh stands one of the most lavishly-funded Anglican churches in the UK..... Page 18

Spirit of Christmas past

An artist commissioned to create the annual Christmas tree for the Tate Gallery in London has displayed a large bin filled to the brim with rubbish - leftovers: empty bottles, drink cans, used Christmas paper, broken decorations, the packaging from toys, gifts or food products and dead trees



Philip Lader, the new American Ambassador, with one of the horses drawing his state landau, on the way to present his credentials to the Queen

NEWS FEATURES

Valerie Grove: Take off your coat and hat," says Gerald Kaufman "and leave your worries on the doorstep." He wears an insouciant air for one who has put a bomb under Covent Garden Page 21

Feminium: The author of the Hite reports on female and male sexuality is now 55 and has produced a book on female behaviour which is likely to be as controversial as its predecessors......Page 19

Arts crists: The arts world is infamous for declaring itself in crisis. This time Matilda may be burning...... Page 20

OPERON

Truth and trial: Winnie Mandela has finally faced what passes for the wrath of Desmond Tutu. But the process will ultimately produce nelther the truth nor reconciliation.

...Page 23

Spires: Some of the best news that London has had for a long time is that Sir Christopher Wren's City churches have been saved by the Church of England .. Page 23

LETTERS Sir Jeremy Isaacs; opera's future; euthanasia: English Page 23

COLUMNS

have thought that Labour's jails would be filled with foxhunting racing drivers. arrested on illegal doorsteps with steaks?... Alan Borg: Too much of the recent debate over museum admission charges has given the impression of being concerned with papering over of

OBITUARIES The Ven G. B. Timms; Annie

funding cracks...........Page 22

Lindsell, campaigner for voluntary euthanasia; John Elwyn, painter......Page 25

BUSINESS

BTR: Shares fell more than 12 per cent after the company made its fifth profits warning since September 1994Page 27

Casinos: London Clubs International moved a step closer to becoming the first British company to enter the world's most famous gaming market after securing a stake in a major development in Las Vegas...

Marketa: The FTSE 100 rose 60.6 to 5142.9. The sterling index fell to 104.3 after falling from \$1.6762 to \$1.6563 and falling from DM2.9670 to DM2.9532 .. Page 31

SPORT

Football: England may play Chile in place of Colombia, against whom they have been drawn in the World Cup.... Page 37 Rugby union: The optimism that rose with Clive Woodward's first selection as England coach has been tempered Page 41 Tennis: John McEnroe

beat Bjorn Borg on a

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Vision

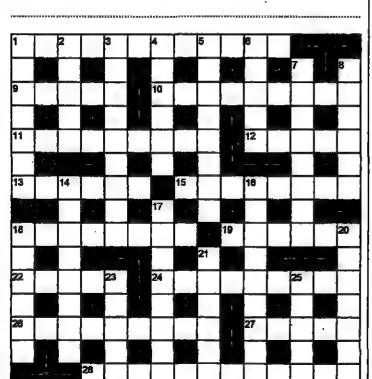
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THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,656

A E20 book token will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London El 9DD. The names of the winners and the solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address .



- ACROSS I No term for this computer Physician not using crates to take
- large animal (5). 10 Band leader in haste to become a big name (9). 11 One who keeps an eye on other
- 12 River featured in dramatic retreat
- 13 Illegal enterprise bringing outcry
- 15 Flew thus after take-off (8). 18 Open University about to make
- an offer (8). 19 Second vehicle, a black Beetle (6).
- 22 Finally got a head to provide lessons (5).
- 24 Good plump porker that has its day in America (9).26 Vaulted chambers containing le-
- gal colleagues? (9).

 27 French white wine not opened for
- these wild parties (5). 28 Old German in moving scene gives Christmas present (12).
- DOWN Academy member holding an exhibition, perhaps (7).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,650

YOURSELVES

2 Clean little dog? (3,2).

'mirth" (8).

world trip (5).

Versace's (8).

judgment (6).

bowls? (6).

avenger (5).

loss of crown? (3-5).

3 Let me open convertible and escape with lover (9).

Church many in diocese leave (6).

Term embracing Italian for

6 Gold piece enough for round-the-

One who replaces the locks after

8 Covered both sides of river by mounting mule, say (6).

14 Deep split in original creation of

16 Weirdo removed from the centre

17 Thus enliven so-called Doctor's

Play better than first pair in our

Sugar cane pulp producing meth-ane, say, in home (7).

23 Poet's house by the sea in France

Solution to Puzzle No 20,655

Sanctuary sought from fiendish

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

Moon rises 11.10 pm 12.11 pm

Sun sett

London 3 53 pm to 7 52 am Bristol 4 03 pm to 8 01 am TOMOFROM

London 3.52 pm to 7.53 am Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.02 am Edinburgh 3.40 pm to 8.30 am Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.11 am

HIGH TIDES H694446809658209901634999486362199 43.32.21130.57246.48534.30151.101366.2053.3918.5174.445.2253.22610.503459.83918.5174.245.2253.22610.526 23/51500289008313140325715002239553240325151622322315533844011253224555003 Dovor
Dovor
Dublin (N Wat)
Falmouth
Greenock
Harwich
Holyfread
Huli (Albert D)
Bhacombe 21 Art of making woods for indoor

HIGHEST & LOWEST

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING 43 6% of the raw material for

FORECAST

General: northern and weatern Scotland will have dult, damp day, with occasional rain and extensive hill cloudy but there will be some drier interludes. Northern Ireland will be interludes. Northern Ireland will be mostly dull, with sprintdes of light rain or drizzle, chiefly in the west. England and Wales will be generally overcast but mostly dry. It will be mild but rather breezy with strong southwesterly winds in many northern and western areas.

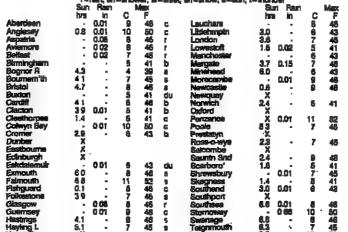
☐ London, SE England, Centrel S England, E Midlands, W Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England: mostly cloudy with spots of drizzle. Wind Iresh, southwest. Mex 11C

England: overcast with light rain, becoming drier later. Fresh southwest

☐ SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, lale of Man, N Ireland: cloudy with apots of rain. Drier and perhaps a little brighter in the lee of hills. Strong southwest breeze. Mex temp 12C (54F).

Secotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: dull with outbreaks of rain. Extensive hill and coastal fog. Strong to gale force southwest wind, Max 12C (54F).

culinwest wind, Max 12C (54F) Republic of Ireland; cloudy with rain or drizzle in the North and West. ☐ Outlook: some rain in the West.



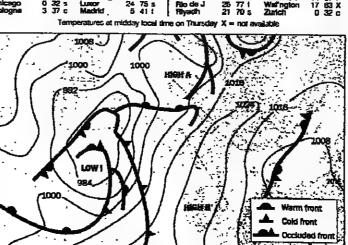
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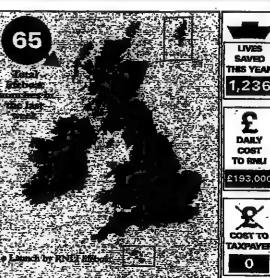
Changes to the chart above from noon: highs A and B will collapse slowly; composite I will drift northeastwards

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundes, Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland: cloudy with outbreaks of light rain, but some cher periods. Strong

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

41 b





Regional rescue update ☐ North-East - 26/11/97 In force 5 winds and heavy seas, the Whitby lifeboat launches to assist the crew of the fishing boat Pride and Joy, which has a tarpaulin caught around its propeller and rudder. They take the

South-East - 24/11/97 The crew of the Bembridge lifeboat stands by to rescue the crew of the oil tanker Nordfahrer packed with 28,000 tonnes of jet fuel - following a collision in the Channel that has caused a crack in

her fuel tanks.

vessel in tow, and bring

her and the three men

Scotland - 29/11/97 The crew of the Mallaig lifeboat rushes to join the search for the fishing boat Kelly Marena after a satellite distress signal is received by the coastguard. After a 💎 🦡 search in the early hours, the lifeboatmen sight a red flare, and race to recover the vessel's three. aboard safely into harbour. crewmen who have taken to a liferaft after their boat sank.



1

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COST TO



FEATURE



Mad decorators who are crazy for yule

SHOPPING



The big crush: women's love affair with velvet

TRAVEL



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COMPETITION



Win a treasure chest of games worth £500

Page 35

THE TIMES

SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

Highgrove sets the course for happy hunting

Lin Jenkins rides with Prince Charles's first drag hunt at his

home in Gloucestershire

Prince of Wales's jumps are too big for him and the pace too fast," suggested one intend to kill a fox.

hunting is considered all, it is safe to assume the invitation did not extend to leaving a hole the size of a horse in a wellmanicured hedge. Whether the heir to the throne witnessed the wanton destruction to his estate as horse and rider badly misjudged the 5ft hedge, plummeted down the drop on the far the experienced riders in the side and crumpled into the mud, the theory could have drainage ditch, I will

never know. My eyes were shut. All efforts were concentrated on staying on board and not leaving the imprint of my ample rump in the Highgrove mud as the horse scrambled to stay upright.

The Prince might weil have been watching. Those in the field on lowed noisily across the counbetter mannered mounts than mine told me that his custom is to join a hunt when mounted, when hounds and huntsmen are at work deep in the countryside, not at the meet in full public view.

However, that day a newspaper had suggested that Prince Charles was to abandon forhunting as a result of the public mood which culminated in last week's vote in the House of Commons supporting a ban.
Many riders suggested that he
wasn't prepared to lend the
theory credibility by joining the drag hunt over his own farm the sport involves a runner laying a trail by dragging a cloth saturated in a foul-smelling concoction of anisced, liquid paraffin and other uid paraftin and other ingredients.

Some of the field, drawn

y invitation was from at least eight packs to join the first around the country, offered ever hunt over the another explanation: The

bay, said: "He has probably been told we are reckless and he'd get knocked off."

Others expressed similar sentiments in more colourful language. And, as the relentless series of hedges, drystone walls, post and rail fences and five-bar gates landed several of

truth. The Prince is moving with public

opinion'

Highgrove estate, where the Gloucestershire pasture is lined with trimmed hedges and wellmaintained drystone walls, provides spectacular riding. Conditions were

good for the scent, and the hounds foltryside, kept in check by the huntsmen and two whippers-in while the field master and master of the pack looked after the mounted field. The difference here was that there was no fox to chase — just the scent of a smelly rag laid by a runner on a pre-determined "line".

Critics and purists dismiss drag hunting as contrived, and say it is nothing more than a group cross-country ride which lacks the suspense of foxhunting.

But, as my horse Toffee, a 14-year-old gelding hardened by several seasons with the Royal Military Academy and Staff College Sandhurst Drag Hunt, approached the first drystone wall we had ever encountered, our fear was far from

Continued on page 2



Prince Charles's support for drag hunting is a boost for the sport, which is likely to be the only permissible method of hunting in the new millennium

PROPERTY

8-10 GARDENING..... 11-13 PETS.

.17 COUNTRY LIFE. 18-19 FAITH

TRAVEL 23-31 GAMES

A DISCHORLE MOVE. **OUT NOW IN CORGI PAPERBACK**

A festive feast of darkness

Rural folk have lost buses, jobs and schools, says Jonathan Young. Leave them farming and field sports

Lord preserve us from the Snells

s the Rural Development Commission pointed out this week, the countryside is full of stress. In reality, those thatched cottages now have a steady stream of cars roaring past. Some of them are tourists, but the majority are driven by locals. They have no choice since the bus system has collapsed and the local shops and services - the butcher, the baker, the overdraft-maker have long been "rationalised" and "translocated" into the nearest big

That is not what really causes the stress, though. What makes the countryside tense is the colonial spirit of those who move into it. They arrive with the National Trust tea-towel image and find all sorts of unmitigated ghastliness: combine harvesters chuntering through the night bringing in the wheat before the forecast downpour; ponies leaving steaming piles in front of Rainbow Cortage

. And then there are the locals. They are a huge disappointment to those nurtured on the rural idyll. The modern ploughman is just not properly gnarled. Where is the knackered flat cap, bindertwine belt and rich cider-wrought

Why does he sport a mid-1980s Botham haircut, drink Carisberg Special and drive a Toyota pick-up at 60mph with ZZ Top at full

illuminating Home Counties phrase, a PLU — a Person Like Us. In my home village there was no

such distinction. You were born there and accepted. Of course, you had to be careful. The fireman's annual ball inevitably ended up in one enormous brawl, and you had to be certain of the back-up team from your local pub. But this was a local rivalry based on drinking habits and the ability to finish on double top after four pints of farmhouse cider. Whatever your background, you were country people with a shared set of values.

To qualify as a proper PLU, a common outlook is unnecessary: all you need is a similar income. The church, the village hall and the pub do a noble job in bringing everyone together, especially at Christmas when there is a genuine sense of goodwill to all men. But at other times, the three classic institutions of village life struggle hard to span the gap between those whose loyalties lie with four bedrooms and a Smallbone kitchen, and those whose affinities are with their county and its soil.

Despite the differences, village

life is usually a paragon of that uniquely English virtue — minding your own business. It is political interference over beef and field sports that have set the village tectonic plates crunching.



Townies can be disappointed with rural life. Local shops have gone, and local folk drive Toyotas

When the Agriculture Ministe announced that beef could not be eaten on the bone, the proper PLUs were not affected. They had already decided that cows were for mooing, calves were for stroking and that any meat from same should be transported in leadlined boxes and incinerated - but not anywhere near them.

holds we listened to the news that the new measure would remove the risk from the six cattle that might be dodgy - six, for God's sake - and vowed we would not see the nation's beef farmers slide towards bankruptcy. We would eat beef like John Bull on double

On field sports, country peop try to be as robust, but it's becoming increasingly wearisome, given the wholesale ignorance of the facts. This week I heard two ladies in a market-town bookshop denouncing a local "disgrace".

"I saw this man wandering around the grounds with a gun and then he strung up a pile of rabbits, all bleeding. Of course, I reported him," she finished triumphantly. How do you explain that to someone so far removed from their rural roots that rabbits must be shot, and must be paunched — gutted — immediately if the flesh is not to be tainted?

What do you say to your neighbour at the dining-table who pours moral outrage over you for pheasant shooting while demolishing steamed breast of batteryfarmed chook?

Where I grew up, every boy had a catapult or an airgun, and most of us graduated to a gun. We shot the local foreshore for duck, and we were the only people there in the snow-filled drizzle of a January day. Then the RSPB moved in, bought the foreshore, and the small lane leading to it is now crammed with birdwatchers cars. A wild place has become a leisure area. Yet most of the newcomers are all too delighted with the change, and will be deeply satis-

fied that hunting is endangered.

They should be wary of voicing this in the wrong company. The People Not Like Us are becoming angered by the urban arrogance. They argue that the law should not be manipulated to oppress minorities, that women were right to use extra-parliamentary action to get the vote, that gays were right to fight for their civil liberties.

There is a popular apocryphal story which is currently doing the rounds. A Forestry Commission spokesman is explaining to a group of Welsh farmers why the Commission will not be control-ling foxes in future nor allowing hunting on its land. He can hardly hear himself speak because each farmer is banging a box of Swan Vesta on the table in silent threat as to what might happen to his

ollecting porcelain models of those exquisite wattle-and-daub buildings that still make up most of the villages in my home county, Devon, might seem a perfectly innocent hobby. But it is this over-romanticised view of rural life which is contributing to social unease, being part of the gingham-patterned distor-tion of the true nature of the

countryside. Townie Blair, as he is now known in rural areas, needs to diffuse the situation. Country people have lost their transport, their schools, their post offices, their jobs. But destroy farming and field sports, and you take away their hearts and souls. The newcomers will then find that the countryside is not so much stressful, as downright hostile.

The author is editor of The Field

Continued from page 1 fabricated. A horse some way in front misjudged the take-off and crashed chest first into the wall, sending his rider sailing over the

It was not a comforting sight. Somebody had told us that the walls needed to be "showjumped". This means approaching them at a slower pace and with more precision than you would do a hedge -

A hedge will yield if a horse hits it; wooden gates normally break under the weight of a hunter. But a wall is rock solid. And, with just three strides to go before we hit this Highgrove speciality, I still wasn't getting my message across to Toffee: "Slow down - for both our

With a second to go, he finally - even when the afternoon sun was so low in the sky that we couldcompelling intensity of the jumps made up for any lack of suspense in the absence of the fox.

the pattern of drag hunting emulates that of pursuing a fox. But when a false scent is laid and the most exciting jumps are pre-selected, the sport becomes faster, more furious and more frightening than a foxhunt. It is no more than a barely controlled bolt, interrupted by a succession of massive obstacles. Even though Highgrove lies in Beaufort country, it is only when an obliging fox runs in the right direction that these same walls and hedges are jumped by Prince Charles, Camilla Parker Bowles and others in the Beaufort Hunt's

Foxhunting and drag hunting are uneasy hedfellows, however. Hounds and Blond Hounds Associ-

at which you gallop so as to clear the ditch lurking behind it.

responded to my desperate efforts and, sitting back on his hocks, cleared the wall in fine style. Then we were on to the next, and the next

Many foxhunts are suspicious of drags, believing them to be opposed to their sport. Drag hunts have no formal view on foxhunting. although Brian Stern, the general secretary of the Masters of Drag ation, believes Michael Foster's Mammals (Hunting with Dogs) Bill is misconceived and

socially divisive. Mr Stern's 17.3-hand hunter. Jack, bowled along easily over the Highgrove hedges, and there is no doubting his enthusiasm for his particular sport. "But drag hunting is a game." he says. "We do not sec ourselves as an alternative to fexhunting."

By this he means that foxes are vermin, that they need to be killed. and that the alternatives to foxhunting are gassing, snaring, shooting or trapping. Those who argue that foxhunting should be replaced by drug, because the chase can be just as thrilling with a smelly soiled rag, seldom bear the farmer's needs in mind. Unless there is vermin control, few landowners will look charitably on a galloping horde of huntsmen enjoying themselves at the expense of their pastures and hedges.
The Prince of Wales last Sunday



The advantage of drag hunting is that the trail is planned to take in the best hedges, making for a more exhilarating time

was clearly prepared to overlook the negative aspects of drag hunting. And, by hosting such a hunt for the first time at Highgrove, he is moving with public opinion on hunting matters. The drag hunt was planned in February, so Mr Foster can claim no credit for having swayed the Prince's mind.

When the Prince was studying at Sandhurst he rode with the drag. Pat Sutton, the master, who first rode out aged 12 recalls: "He always rode up at the front." He was, of course, younger then, and possibly bolder. His return to the drag hunt takes account of the widely held view that a false scent followed by hounds is likely to be the only permissible method of

hunting in the new millennium.

That is, unless the very idea of kennelling a pack of specially bred hounds for the purpose of sport comes under attack from those who think that a canine life other than endless hours in front of a fire and walks in a park is to be deplored. Animal-rights campaigners have

already aired this view. Perhaps the driver of an orange Mini we encountered felt that way. Either that, or it was his innate prejudice against a bunch of "toffs" in a colourful collection of red, blue, black and green hunting costs that



Lin Jenkins, who negotiated drystone walls for the first time

made him accelerate dangerously past a line of horses in the road while making an obscene gesture. He was not the only one. Even around Highgrove, deep in a rural community, the sight of a hunt elicited an angry response from a large number of passers-by. It was impossible to explain to the woman enger in a white Peugent who yelled "Killers!" out of the window that there would be no kill. And

that if the man who laid the scent were caught, he need fear only being licked to death — raw recruits have had to climb trees to escape the hounds' affections.

Drag hunting gets little publicity other than from the anti-foxhunting brigade, who parade it as an acceptable country pursuit. Horse and Hound, the equestrian weekly, declined an invitation to cover the meet at Highgrove, even

though no other drag hunt had ever hosted a treet to which so many members from other packs had travelled to attend.

The equestrian world's antipathy may be because the sport is promoted not by those who take part, but by those who are antiforhunting. Prince Charles's support, given the stand-offish nature of the equestrian hierarchy, is a serious boost. "Being allowed to meet at Highgrove is quite a coup," says Mr Stern.

Drag hunting is immense fun. Like all equestrian pursuits it can be dangerous. At Highgrove, sev-eral riders ended up with bumps and bruises, although the worst damage was to their pride. One woman whose face collided with a wall was quite badly hurt, but even she was able to walk away herself before going to hospital.

As we hacked back to the horse boxes, Toffee jogged and snatched excitedly at the bit. "Well, you have survived," said a friend from the Sandhurst drag. "That's what it is all about." Indeed, the following morning I felt I had done several rounds in the boxing ring and still retained an element of the terror of approaching my first drystone wall. Prince Charles had missed a

How to join the Victorian sport of drag hunting

DRAG HUNTING differs from foxhunting in that the hounds or foxbounds follow a scent laid by a runner trailing a smelly bag behind him, rather than the scent of a fox.

The man runs over fields, hedges and rivers on a route which has been pre-arranged between the hunt and the landowner, whose farms the mounted field will be crossing.

Blood hounding is similar, except that the hounds are of a different breed, and chase the airborne scent of a man or women - who often has not washed for a while — running ahead of them. They tend to be slower.

sports, began as foxhound contests which could be easily watched as one hunt pitted their prowess against another. It was not long before people realised it would be fun to follow on horseback and enjoy the fast and forious pursuit. The sport developed farther

on grounds of convenience, those who could not find the time to spend a whole day watching and iting for the foxhounds to pick up a live scent decided to lay their own trail.

Oxford University was one of the first institutions to form a dedicated drag pack, and Cambridge University followed suit in 1855.

The Army, attracted by the short time it took to follow the drag, together with the intensity of the equestrian demand, formed the Shorncliffe in east Kent in 1861. The Household Brigade formed its drag pack two years later, the Royal Artillery at Woolwich in 1866, and the Staff College at Camberley and the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst in 1869.

Drag hunting became so ned an activity at the latter century, those who did not ride well with the drag stood little

chance of a staff job. Attitudes have changed, but the Army still hunts with the Sandhurst drag, and the pack is still celebrated in photographs and memorabilia at the recently abandoned Staff College at Sandhurst.

False scents also provide better amusement for those who follow the hunt on foot. In fact, they follow by car, but the advantage of a false scent is that they can be told where to look

The dress code for drag foxhunting. Each hunt has its uniform of hunt coat, collar and buttons, which is awarded to those enthusiastic enough to be

given their hunt colours. Visitors and occasional participants wear a black or blue nunting cost and stock, or neckcloth, or a simple hacking jacket with shirt and tie.

COSTS VARY, but an average subscription for a member of a hunt is about £400 for a season. That runs from October to April, with a hunt meeting perhaps six times a month Visitors pay between £35 and £50 a day although there are deals for newcomers.

An experienced hunter would cost from £5,000, but many people who ride to hound have paid much less for their horses. The cost of keeping a horse stabled at livery for the purpose of drag hunting in the South East of England costs at least £100 a week, excluding the cost of shoeing and transport to shows. However, costs are lower in the summer when the horse is resting

LIN JENKINS



A runner with the Sandhurst drag will trail a bag of anisced, liquid paraffin and other ingredients as he runs across fields

ANOTHER TIME, ANOTHER FACE. REVERSO DUO.









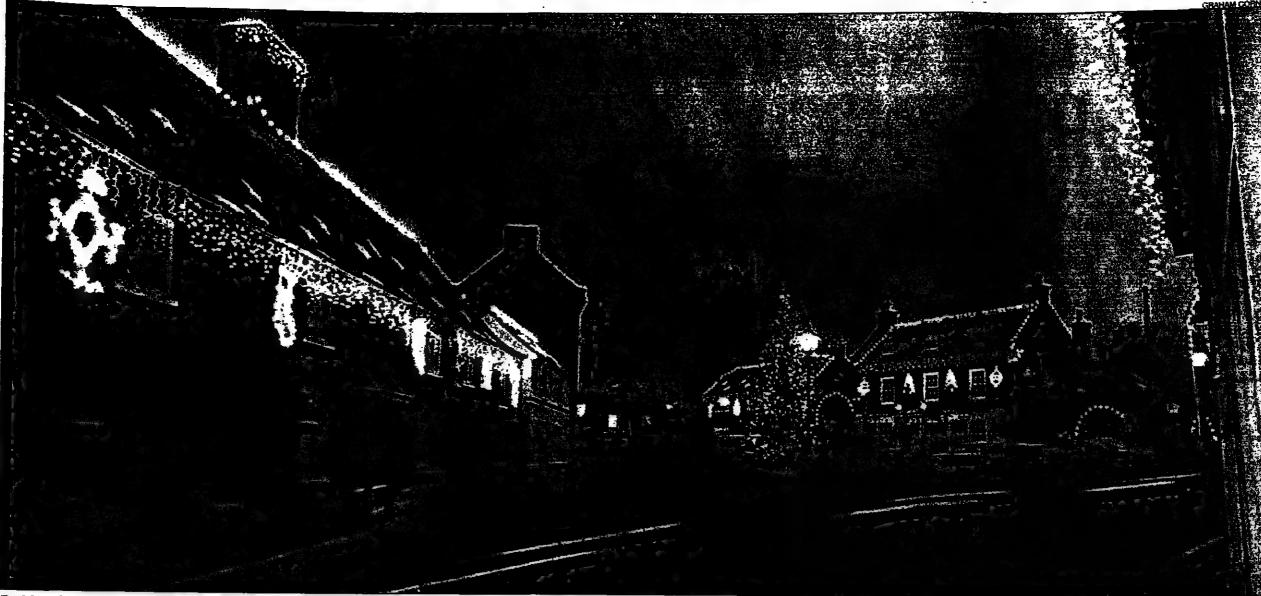






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Foulsham in Norfolk — "on the road to nowhere" — which Ray Lake decorates with 30,000 lights, attracting crowds of visitors: "The village just gets flooded with people. We've had to install traffic lights because the streets can't cope"

We're all lit up for Christmas

Some people spend

thousands on

festive lights, but with mixed results,

says Damian

Whitworth

back of your mind. You have tried to shut it out but it will not go away. Eventually you are going to have to accept that it is time to get the ladder and go into the loft. It is time to hunt for the Christmas tree lights.

Of all the seasonal rituals, putting the glow glow glow into Christmas is one that can be guaranteed to remove a lot of the early ho ho ho. Who has not found themselves overcome by humbug after wres-tling to identify the one blown bulb that is ruining the entire string of coloured lights?

For some, dreaming of a bright Christmas occupies their entire year. By now they are sitting at home beneath roofs groaning with the weight of thousands of lights and a thick layer of (fake) snow. controversial. The displays in the West End of London this year have been criticised by the Royal Institute of British Architects for lacking imagi-nation and taste. And Ron Mann, of Worcester, was the focus of attention last week because his 1.000-bulb display had been put up two months before Christmas.

owever, this is low wattage compared to others blazing ners of the country. By Ray Lake's own admission, Foul-sham, the Norfolk village which is home to him and 800 other souls "is on the road to nowhere". But his yuletide home-improvement pro-gramme has brought half the county flocking to his door. Mr Lake, 53, is the driving

force behind a lighting display that has grown beyond his wildest dreams. "I started out five or six years ago in a small way, just 1,000 bulbs on my house. Now we've got in excess of 30,000 lights this year. We've spread from our house to the market square and the High Street because we had so many people coming to the house we couldn't cope.

The village has beautiful old houses and we've done all their roofs and chimneys and even the gutterings and the church tower. We've got Christmas trees, candles, belis and sleighs. We set the lights on wire frames made by my son. They take several weeks to make but if we had bought them it would have cost the better part of £100,000. We've probably spent £15,000-£20,000 over the years."

Mr Lake pays for the bulbs

himself and takes time off from running his firm of



John and Diane Southern, from Bristol, decorate their garden each Christmas

electricians, for which his two sons also work, to spend three weeks putting up the lights.
"We get great pleasure out of it
and last year we took £30,000
for charity," he says.
Although his corner of Nor-

folk is sparsely populated, word of the illuminations has spread far and wide and Mr Lake is overwhelmed. "We've not to be a special to be a s got 100 coaches booked already. The village just gets flooded with people. We've had to install traffic lights because the streets can't cope. Every parking place is allo-cated and we have got fields set aside for cars. My wife and a friend used to organise the whole thing but now we have 15 people doing it and we had our first planning meeting back in June. It's getting beyond us. We are the victims of our own success, I suppose. You obviously get some people who get cheesed off in the village. I'm all right because we are out of the main square and have got a back exit, but it

can be annoying."

The one thing Mr Lake is determined to control is the quality of his work. His lights,

he insists, will not be tacky: "I think ours are tasteful. We try and keep away from the plastic images."

The Smyth family of Holywell, Clwyd, are equally

busy. They have a garden filled with hundreds of film and cartoon characters created from plywood and thou-sands of coloured bulbs. This year they were working round the clock to ensure that the Teletubbies and a dragon that breathes smoke will be ready to join Mickey Mouse and all 101 dalmatians. "My husband does lighting sequences and we have music on tape for all the different characters. Coaches come throughout the Christmas season," says Lynnette Smyth, who has been rigging up Christmas illumi-

nations for 21 years. The neighbours probably think we are mad but they love it. It's Christmas, isn't it? The electricity bill goes up by about £300 but it's worth it. It gives pleasure to so many people. especially those who can't get

once again be bedecked with 15,000 lights this season, ex-plains that the key to a successful display is inventiveness. "It's not a big house but we've got ten Christmas trees inside. Highlights on the outside of her semi include a Santa and sleigh over the door. and reindeer on the eaves.

"Children ask if Santa's in and I have a little answerphone and I press it and it says: 'Santa's not in at the moment, he's out loading his sleigh but he will get back to you after these jingles."

The art is a competitive one, with afficionados highly critical of each highly critical of each other's efforts. Mrs Read is not impressed by Mr Mann who, with just 1,000 lights, managed to commit some cardinal style fairx pas. "Those Father Christmases were very tacky, I'm sorry to say." she remarks of the large plastic Santas that had feaplastic Santas that had featured on the outside of the house. "I colour-blend in. If I'm doing a room in pink I do it in pink. You can't have bits of different coloured tinsel





Vernon and Mollie Dunn from Lytham St Anne's: "We've got ski-slopes, carousels, three trees and Mickey Mouses"

They give pleasure to so many people, especially those who can't get up to Blackpool'

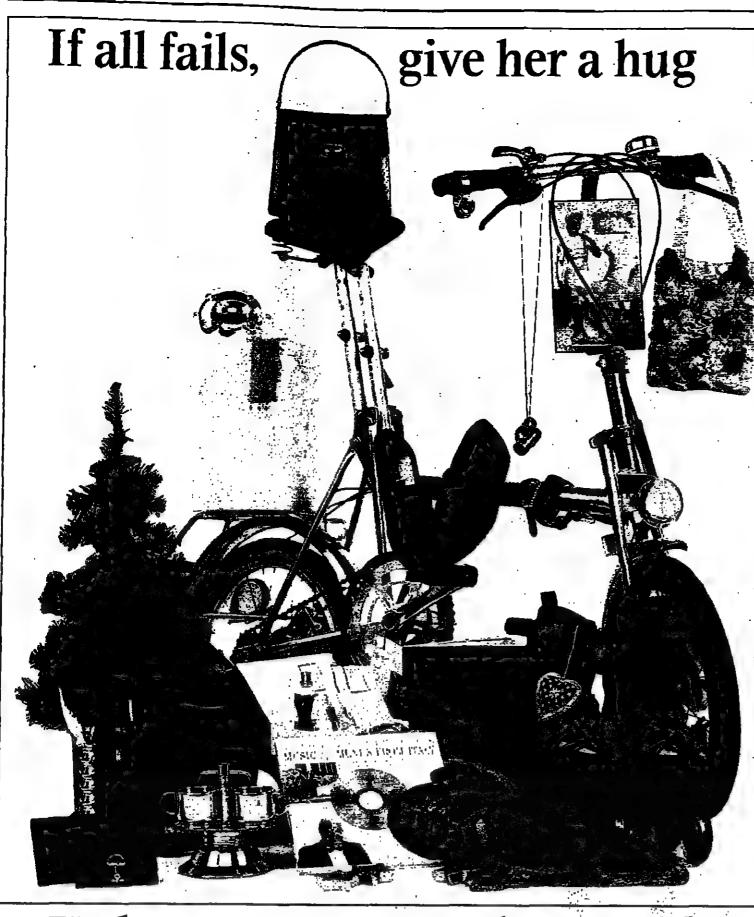
everywhere. I don't do it to show off, don't get me wrong. I love the decorations. They make the house look warm and cosy and inviting.
"We have coachloads of

people queueing up and we are constantly opening the door so people can come through the house. It must have cost thousands over the years but I don't think of it like that, it's my pleasure."

Not everyone is as happy. Vernon and Mollie Dunn are distraught because, for the first time since they started their idiosyncratic decorations six years ago at their home in Lytham St Anne's, Lancashire, they have not been able to mount their display. "I've a bad shoulder," explains Vernon, 69, "so we couldn't do the garden this year and we've had so many disappointed callers. Inside, we've got skislopes, carousels, three Christmas trees, Christmas bands and Mickey Mouses, but I couldn't manage the garden. But next year I'm going to make a comeback - I've got some catalogues from Amer-ica already."



FOR INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL \$171 499 4411.



PRESENTS FOR HER

ith so many shops rejuctant to take back unwanted Christmas presents because it depresses their January till receipts, it is important that you buy the woman in your life the right gift first time. If you find choosing the perfect present too daunting a challenge, then do not be ashamed just to play safe: compromise on something that is sensually feminine, but which can be easily absorbed into the everyday life of the household if it turns out not to be, after all, her heart's most burning desire. This way, if she opens her present on Christmas morning and sighs, "Oh darling, it's absolutely lovely, but I think there's probably still some life left in the pure badger shaving brush/186-piece spanner set/Melinda Messenger cufflinks (one breast per cuff, set in sterling silver, very tasteful) that you also bought me last year", your carefully chosen present is not completely wasted.

Of course, the shops will be closed on Christmas Day, making it difficult actually to go out and buy a replacement gift, but do not despair; just remember that every "intimate" survey you have ever read in Cosmopolitan says that what women most want from their man is a cuddle and a sense of humour. So wrap up your arms in some festive tissue paper and give your wife or girlfriend a warm hug, while telling her that hilarious joke about the Duchess of York and the dried apricots. If she baulks at your generous, affectionate gift, then it is probably just as well you found out she was an ungrateful, humourless little hussy before you had splashed out on buying her a top-of-the-range, Brian Lara-endorsed cricket bat for her next birthday.

JOE JOSEPH

PRESENT has with the and linen slippers ultimate transport: a with golden embroidery, £100, The General Trading Company (0171-730 0411), Black sueda from Nauticalia (mail order, 01932,253333). leather belt with diamanté buckle, £39.95, Harvey Nichols (0171-235 5000), Give the green woman in your life a tree from the BTCV (the British Trust Paperchase (0171-580 Volunteers). For a 8496). For the women donation of £17, volunteers will plant a tree as part of a campaign to increase the UK's native Michelangelo's David fridge magnet, 29.95, from Initial Ideas (mail

woodland cover

ess steel, £475

who likes nothing

a classical body:

order, 01548 831070)

handbag by designe Sam Cross, £86, Koh

4280). On bike's back:

a candle that will last all winter, 265, Habitat

of candle: silver and .

cande trade, 259.90

Contemporary, and

moonstone, crysta

and tourmakine.

bracelet by Sarah Walss, 2460, Koh

830 6300).

(01491 839766). MIDDLE ROW: Vega wine glass, in a range Baccarat (0171-409 7767), Black nylon vanity bag, £460, Tanner Krolle (0171collectionsbroad or in

491 2243) with several CD case, 295, to carry 01749 340500) Zarvi'a redemotic kit, £35: an indulgant

never lorget: a flight in a Tiger Moth, 2139 for 30 minutes, Red Letter Days (0181-343 5354). Or give her wings on her (ent with the latest K2 Extreme Flight infiline skates, £159, Road Runner (0171-792 decoration on inlineskate: velvet heart, 23.25, General Trading Company (as before).

FRONT ROW (from eft): French purse, £69, and credit-card dark brown leather will golden buckle, Harvey Nichols (as before). Two-cup luxury chrome 244.95, Ocean (mail order, 0800 132985). Give her a real teals of Italy with Antonio Menus from Italy, a recipe book with CD for her to sing along to, £16.99, The Conran Shop (0171-589 7401). Or wrap her in a pure luxury; a handtembroldered aliver silk scarf, £450, Georgina von Etzdori (0171-409

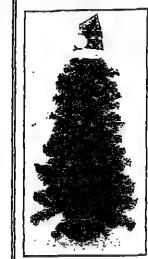
Jenson. Styling and research by Jenstitus

GADGETS

CHRISTMAS is coming, the goose is getting frantic and any time now the decorations should be going up. This year's seasonal Made in China novelty is the singing Christmas tree, which has a sensor attached to a branch.

Walk past the 32inhigh plastic tree and it bursts into life. The branches move to reveal large flashing eyes and a mouth which huge mouth which mouths festive greetings

and bursts of carols. The tree comes with a mains adaptor and has a three-way switch, voiume control and, fortu-



The singing tree

nately, an off switch. Children love it but older elves might find the limited repertoire grates by Christmas Eve.

Wacky Shaky Christmas Pals are 4in-high soft toys built around rigid plastic bodies. Clap your hands and they sing Jingle Bells as if on helium. On a carpet they wobbie furiously but on a smooth surface they jerk through a full circle before turning themselves off.

TIM WAPSHOTT

Singing Christmas

Tree, E49.95 plus p&p,
and Wacky Shaky Christmas Pals, £9.95 plus p&p, from the Gadge Shop (U1483 860860).

Where you can buy gifts at a gallop

my 85-year-old mother still

lives up the road so I prefer to

come here," he says:
"I regularly used to buy

dressing gowns as presents from another shop nearby

called The Square Pillow,

the Christmas Shopping Stakes, former champion jockey Richard Pitman always waits until well into the final furlong before making his move. Then, on Christmas Eve, he goes galloping into Once A Tree in Cheltenham. knowing it is an odds-on certainty that he will be able to find something there for every-

one on his list. "For anyone like me who leaves buying their gifts until the very last moment, it's the perfect place, full of the most interesting and unusual presents," sayx Mr Pitman, 54,

EXCLUSIVE OFFER : .

oday The Times and Viners offer readers

I the chance to buy this quality stainless

range for just £99, a saving of £100 on the

matching stainless steel knobs and stay-cool

handles with hanging loops for easy storage.

enclose a cheque/PO(s) made payable to:

it consists of 16, 18 and 20cm saucepans and a

mrrp of £199.

steel six-piece saucepan set from their Insight

This stylish set has a highly polished finish.

Richard Pitman gets his last-minute

presents from a wood and paper

shop, Michael Cable discovers

who is now a racing commen-tator and best-selling thriller As the name implies, everything sold in Once A Tree is

made from wood or paper. Products come from all around the world and range from toys and games to kitchen utensils and from graceful African figures carved out of ebony to noveltles such as

Save £100 on this

Six-piece saucepan set

wooden wrist watches and wooden fountain pens.

The Cheltenam branch, located in an award-winning. two-storey glass building in the heart of the city's Montpel-lier shopping area, is one of a chain of six up and down the country.

The Oxford branch is actually nearer to where I'm living these days, but I'm always in

THE SE TIMES

20cm casserole dish, all with glass lids, plus a

14cm milk pan and 24cm frying pan. both

with a non-stick interior. Each pan has a

be absorbed quickly, which means food is

hobs except induction. Each pan is dish-

washer safe and guaranteed for ten years.

cooked more efficiently.

Or debit my MasterCard/Vista card no.

Send coupon and remittance to: The Times Sau

Ottoes received by December 12 will be despetition on him for Christman. If despitation protein return return goods within seven days of receipt for a tid return. No claims for loss in fairnet can be state 50 days. Citer is subject to availability.

Please lack box if you do not such to receive further details from The Traces or companies approved by us.

THE TIMES SAUCEPAN SET OFFER

QTY SITEM TOTAL

5mm encapsulated base allowing the heat to

The saucepans are suitable for all types of

which was how I first discovered Once A Tree." And he adds: "Their stuff is so irresistible that I usually end up buying presents for myself as well as for other people. We men normally end up with socks and pants and handkerchiefs at Christmas, so I take the opportunity to

spoil myself."

A giraffe carved in the Zimbabwean village of Binga from the wood of the Munyanya tree, a life-size heron made from the Indone-sian softwood belalu and a serpent fashioned from a length of creeper, all purchased from Once A Tree, can be found decorating various corners of the Oxfordshire village home he shares with

Mandy, his wife. He also collects walking sticks, of which Once A Tree has a wide selection, and is

very taken with its "rain

my favourite shop

ticks" - dried cactus stems, 2-3ft long and a couple of inches wide, with seeds which cascade down inside when you turn them, creating a soothing sound like falling rain. "Great for de-stressing yourself," he

ssys. It is hard to believe Mr Pitman does suffer from stress. But his life has been tough and success did not come easy. Born within a bookmakers signalling distance of the racecourse at Cheltenham, he became a stable lad because, he says, what else do you do if you're the uneducated runt of the litter who has failed all nine of

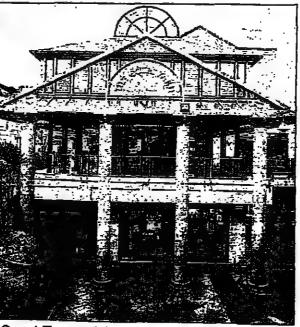
your O-levels?" He went on to win 470 races. including just about every classic except the Grand Nat-ional, for which he was cruelly pipped in the last few strides in

Eighteen years later, this disappointment was compounded when, as a commentator, he watched exactly the same thing happen to Mark. his son by his first wife Jenny

During his own 15-year riding career, he broke nearly every bone is his body many times over - nose and collar-



Under starter's orders: Richard Pitman with managers Luan Namess and Belinda Wilson



Once A Tree specialises in wood and paper products

bone at least ten times each. ribs, ankles, legs and arms on a regular basis. On top of that there was the continual torture, for a naturally chunky figure, of sweating off the pounds to make the weight. So why does anybody do it?

There's nothing like thrill of

riding half a ton of thorough-

bred over a fence in front of a big crowd." he shrugs, with a twinkle in his one good eye, having lost the sight of the other five years ago after being repeatedly kicked by a horse that threw him as he was trying to break it in.

That happened some time after he had retired from

racing to become a BBC commentator and to run a small stud, breeding racehorses and Connemara pomies. A true countryman at heart, he feels a particular affinity with wood and craftsmanship which is why, he supposes, he is so drawn to Once A Tree.

e just loves the feel of wood, he says, running his hands over some of the intricate puzzle boxes which fit together like jigsaws and come in walnut, burr maple and

"And look at these," he adds, reaching for one of the flower vases in lignum vitae, the cream, green and brown colours of which change subtly in different lights. They make marvellous and relatively inexpensive presents."

Naturally, he takes to a £595 rocking horse, by far the most expensive item in the shop, and sportingly agrees to be pictured in the saddle.

The old championship style is still there but, as he says cheerfully: "I sometimes miss the thrills, but not the spills." Once A Tree, The Courtyard, Montpellier, Cheltenham (01242 224642). Mon-Sat 9,30am-5.30pm.

BARGAINS

There are bargains to be you buy?

THERE is a rotten tree stump in our garden. It is the only excuse I need to visit the West Midland Farmers' retail centre in Melksham, Wiltshire,

with my E100. ...WMF sells practical things for farmers: sheep dip, gate posts, chain saws and electric fences. There are no frills (farmers do not waste money) and everything is built to last. It is the sheer practicality that impresses me. And the 18 different types of wellington boot, from pricey green Hunters to heavy black galoshes



with real heels and soles. Wellies are the first item on my list and I choose the Steel Shanks with rust-red soles and shiny patent uppers. Not bad for £8.95 and a perfect accompaniment to the E7.95 waterproof suit. Just the thing to wear when uprooting a tree stump. Sadly, WMF does not sell dynamite. But the £19.51 Hand Power Puller Shifts Two Tons is the next best thing. Bolt it to the wall with the 15in adjustable spanner (£9.81)

and you can shift almost anything. Having pulled out the root I need to chop it up, which is why I have spent £16.99 on a tree-felling axe with American hickory handle. Once the hole is filled in and turfed over. an old-fashioned galvanised watering can with brass rose (£10.95) is just what is needed.

Now a confession. I am an impostor in WFM, so I am going to buy a sign. Beware of Bull, for £4.30. There is still enough left over for an aluminium lamp shade and a combine harvester — for my five-year-old son.

SIMON DE BRUXELLES

Dark, velvety treats for winter nights

template slipping into that little strappy evening dress, there are only three things that cheer me up: a big log fire, wine and a pair of

velvet trousers.
Odd? Perhaps. But velvet has that ability to lift the spirits. It's not just that it clings to the body in a soft, fluid way: It is also comfortable, warm and looks fantastically dramatic.

This season the range is bigger than ever. There are not only the bohemian jackets worn by Bloomsbury bon vivants such as Lady Ottoline Morrell, but the sexy rocker styles flaunted by rebels such as Marianne Faithfull.

Stores are draped with long, slinky dresses and flowing palazzo pants for evening, and tailored trouser suits and hipsters with satin-trimmed tops for hang-loose occasions. There are also slips, saucy shorts and bikini tops, which can be worn day or evening.

elvet takes colour in a way that is both light and dark;" Caroline Charles, which means it has depth that works for most occasions."

Accessories have been created to complement the looks: tasselled and beaded evening bags, embroidered shawls and strappy sandals. And the item most coveted by women for winter: a scarf from Georgina von Etzdorf, Clarissa Hulse or Neisha Crosland.

Because velvet has a strong base and a soft, silky pile, it is surprisingly resilient, making it an ideal fabric to distress and burn with paint and acids. Devore finishes were featured in almost every winter collection, from Donna Karan and Issey Miyake to Paul Frith and Vivienne Westwood.

At Etro, which opened on London's New Bond Street in September, deep-pile velvets

and see-through delicates are both well represented. "Velvet is both sporty and luxurious which perfectly complements the spirit of our time," says Kean Etro, design director.

Unlike the 1920s, when the only velvet available was made of silk, today's synthetic, inexpensive lookalikes are easy to clean. High-street stores stock elegant dresses for less than £100, velveteen shoes for less than £30, and accessories for less than a fiver. Which means that everyone can now join in the velvet revolution.

LISA GRAINGER

Photographs by Richard Burns. Hair and make-up by Saily Kvaiheim for Jo Hansford (0171-495.7774). Styling by Amendip Uppel. Shot on location at Mulberry's Chariton House Hotel (01749 342008).









TOP LEFT: Dark tylue velvet coat, 2520, Katharine Hamnett, 5W1 (0171-823 1002) Devoré SW1 (0171-739-8150) Red snakeskin ankle-tie shoes, £225, Gina, SW1 (0171-235 2932)

ABOVE: Fake fur-frim silk coat, £650, Scapa, W1 (0171-637 1450) Pium initied cardigan, £120. The Scotch House, SW1 (mail order, 0171-581 2151). Green devoré bias-cut skirt, \$49.99 Next, as before. Plum and bronze beaded choker. 2295, Van Peterson, SW3, and Liberty, W1 (0171-584 1101). velve: ankle-tie pumps. £175, Gina, as before

TOP RIGHT: Plum velour stretch tank-top, £78, Etro, W1 (0171-495 5767) Pink velvet txelf 99 Per staguert (0345 100500)

ABOVE LEFT: Dark brown and redivelidress, £760, Etro, as before. Crange crushed-velvet silver-hoop bag, £85, Coccineils, Dickins & Jones (0171-734 7070)

FAR LEFT: Grey metallic silk pulf skirt with black velvet frim. £312, Workers For Freedom. Liberty W1; Harrods, SW1 (0171-978 7818). Black sheerknit vest top, £390 Gucci, 33 Old Bond Street, W1 /0171-629-2716) Black suede mules, \$195, Gina, as before

LEFT: Deep plum velvet blazer with satin from, £425, matching calazzo pants, \$275, lace vest, £255, Mulberry, W1 (0171-491 3900) Velvet bag, £21, Marks & Spencer, selected branches (0171-935 4422). Red velvet shoes with leather straps, £295.



THREE OF A KIND

IN THE depths of winter, nothing cheers a woman up like a soft. luxurious velvet scarf. Here are three of the best



"French knot", £125, Nelsha Crosland, Harrods, SW1, Liberty, W1 (0171-978 4389) TOP RIGHT: Devore scarl, £75. Fenn Wright and Manson, House of Fraser (0171-323 4821) RIGHT: Paisley devote scarl, £129, Caroline Charles, W1

(0171-629 4077)







For those who nose,





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'As the years advance, and spontaneity succumbs to maternity, I have found myself turning, in my vague way, into Mrs Bonkers'

Tell, look here. I am sorry to mention the C-word, but there is no escaping it now. Even I have had to admit that it is happening. Outside the greengrocers there are rows and rows of Christmas trees, trussed up like prickly grey-green holsters, and above them, back and forth all the way up Blackheath High Street, zigzags a string of fairy lights, provided, it says on a large banner, by the tradespeople of Blackheath (no nasty municipal lights for us, thanks all the same).

The Great Switch-On takes place this afternoon. "Shall we be there?" Alexander wants to know. It depends on how I am getting on with my panic buying, is the answer

When the sun shines and the roses are in bloom, in the sections of daily newspapers given over to the doings of batty but harmless women - the very fag-ends of the Home News pages -there appears each year a report of how some Mrs Bonkers of Nottingham or Ipswich has made it her business to complete all her Christmas shopping six months ahead of time, right down to the turkey, the mince pies and the stuffing, which now repose, carefully date-

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What's cooking this Christmas?

God, how sad, I used to think, as of course you are meant to, on reading of poor Mrs Bonkers and her attempt to Get Ahead of Herself. Except that, as the years advance, and spontaneity succumbs to maternity, I have found myself turning, in my vague and disorganised way, into Mrs Bonkers. The January sales (which, for some reason, I dread far less than the spiteful ruck of West End Christmas shoppers) find me scooping up armsful of devore velvet this and crystal that, thinking, "This will do for Mary; this will be perfect for Lucy."

The maddening thing is, it doesn't work. December comes and, smug as Martha Stewart after bottling a bushel of plums, I fling open the door of the present cupboard to examine the treasures inside, only to discover that they were fairy gold. The pretty baubles that glittered so enticingly early in the year One by one they come out and are discarded. Won't do for Mary. Not perfect for Lucy. Not perfect for anyone, in fact, except the

So it's off again to the thronged pavement and the overheated shops, to be on and bawled at megathrough phones by fearsome school dinner ladies

in fluorescent tabards until one feels ready to bite, like a two-year-old. Meanwhile, my mother, who loves Christmas, has been longing to discuss The Arrangements ever since Stir Up Sunday, when she came home from church, put on her pinny, and segued

LIFE AND SOUL



and next year's Christmas puddings. The puddings for this year have been sitting on a shelf in past 12 months, maturing. Black as peat and full of suet, they are the sort of puddings on which the British empire was three years. Tied up in a pocket handker-

chief, it travelled back and forth with me to France. And every time, when the moment came, my companion felt unable to face eating it. I gave it back to my mother in the end. And she fed it to my father, who seems to have. survived the experience — so far.

Anyway, I have been resisting, quite successfully until now, her attempts to

engage me in festive conversation. But last weekend she got me trapped between the wall and the dining table and started to talk about birds. (She is assuming that I have not formulated an escape plan from the family celebrations and she is right. Every year, in mid-December, my girlfriends and I telephone each other and say mournfully. Are you going home for it." "Yeah, so am I. Next year we really must book a house somewhere and have a grown-up Christmas." But then, if we did that, we'd have to behave like grown-ups. Some of us would have to cook. And others of us would have to wash up. And who would blunder, cursing genteelly as she stubs her toe on the bedpost, into my room at dead of night to hang up my Christmas

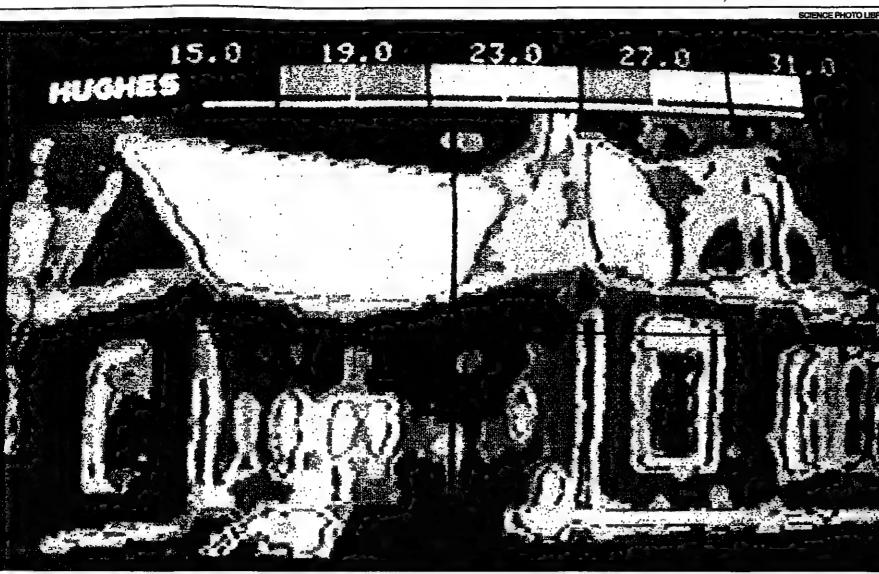
"So," said my mother, "I thought a goose might make a nice change this ear." A goose? She cannot be serious. Call an ambulance, somebody, please. After what happened last time we had a

goose. "It wasn't that bad," says my mother. Actually, it was.

It was a couple of years ago now. Some days before the bird was due to enter the oven, my mother sat down with log tables and a sliderule and, taking into account the ratio between bone density and surface area, and the square root of the wing span of the creature, calculated that it would be done to a turn in around

o the Midnight Mass party went off to Mass, and the early church party went to early church, and lunchtime came, and we sat in a row with our funny hats on - and in came my mother, carrying an ashet, something that looked like a phoenix whose thermostat had gone horribly wrong. My father took a carving knife to it, but it was no good. You might as well have tried to carve something excavated at Pompeii. We had roast potatoes for Christmas lunch, and cabbage.

I drew a breath to remind my mother of all this (could she really have forgotten?). But it was all right. From the next room, the oracle spoke a single



Thermagram, or heat image, of a house showing the distribution of temperature. The temperatures are colour coded, with lighter colours representing the greatest heat loss

Turning green wit the minimum of effort

who wanted to adopt a greener lifestyle faced a discouraging prospect. It was an all-or-nothing commitment which involved cladding your roof with solar panels, ditching the car for a rusty old bike, bathing in two inches of water once a week, forsaking all things plastic and composting everything within sight. Once you had got your house looking like a cross between a hippie commune and the Mir space station, you were sorted.

The problem was that it was all so daunting. Few people had the time, money or inclination to conduct such a radical overhaul of their lives. So most of us sat back and let the Green Revolution pass

In fact, according to the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), which has just issued a report to tie in with the climate change conference in Kyoto, Japan, great environmental strides can be made with little changes. Dr Jacquelin Burgess, a cultural geogra-pher from University College London, who co-wrote the report, says that major savings can be made simply by cutting out bad habits, such as leaving the tap running while brushing your teeth. and leaving lights on after leaving a room. "Once we spot these habits, we can see the sense in changing them." Dr Burgess says. There is already a scheme. Action Anjana Ahuja on how cutting out bad household habits can make a positive

contribution to a better environment

at Home, which encourages people to do just that. It was devised by Global Action Plan (GAP), a London-based environmental charity, and it encourages people to make small-scale, manageable changes to their lifestyle. Households pay a one-off fee of £ 5 to join. for which they receive an action pack once a month for six months. Each pack covers a particular area, such as energy, water or waste. The packs contain simple tips which only the stubbornest of households would grumble about following.

Energy can be saved by turning the heating thermostat down by one degree, and by turning the television off at the set rather than with the remote control. Water use can be reduced by fixing dripping taps and replacing the odd bath with a shower. Shopping can be made more efficient by taking a shopping list, to discourage wasteful buying, and by eschewing throwaway conveniences such as disposable razors.

We try to emphasise the positive and the practical," says Sallyanne Flemons, from GAP. "It is simple advice that people can follow and feel they are really achieving something In the past, people have been made

to feel guilty about the environment but we try to get away from that. We need to be realistic, and let people choose how much they do. We actually find that once participants get used to doing certain things, they want to do more." The scheme has certainly made a

sizeable difference among the 10,000 households across Britain that have participated. Waste has been cut by almost a third, and water use by lo per cent. An average of five per cent has been shaved off household energy bills. and four per cent off petrol bills.

Dr Burgess herself runs an admirably green household given that she and her husband both work, and that they have two teenage children. They sort their waste, have a compost heap, restrict (organic) meat intake to two or three times a week, have an economical gas condensing boiler and double glazing. Seasonal vegetables from local farmers are delivered weekly. They all use public transport, except for the

weekly shop. Despite the process appearing to be relatively easy. Dr Burgess believes that turning Britain into a nation of greenies is going to prove a long haul. Firstly, people will only go so far in changing their habits. One type of behaviour that can hardly be budged is our dependence on the motor car. "A woman may need to do the school run, do the shopping and go to work, and it is very complicated to do it on public transport," Dr Burgess says.

Most of us can understand that." But more significantly, there is a hard core of about 70 per cent of the nation that cannot be persuaded to indulge in any green behaviour at all, not even the odd trip to the bottle bank. It could be because they think that their individual contribution will make no difference to the state of the planet.

People are also more likely to have a sense of duty towards the environment if Government and other official institutions reinforce the same attitude. To this end, GAP has just completed an Action at Work pilot scheme at Devon County Council. The charity has also been working with schools; a clever spin-off is that as children grow into green citizens, they can encour-

age their parents to change.

Dr Burgess says: "It's about turning our philosophy into a much more pro-environmental one. But we are talking about a major social change here. It is not going to happen overnight, or even over a few months. It is going to be a long-term process of persuading people that we need to adopt more sustainable lifestyles.

HOW TO BE AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY HOUSEHOLD

Use a solar water heating system (DIY costs £500 and will pay you back you in two to three years)

Ahrays use full loads in the washing machine

Wesh diekes by band

Take a shower instead of a bath

garden (each person in the UK uses about 160 litres of water a day; only 15 litres are used for drinking and

Buy a CFC-friendly fridge and freezer, or if possible use a larder or cool coom instead

Hang clothes on a washing line or in an airing cupboard, instead of

Use low-energy appliances and light bulbs to save electricity

Ride a bicycle (71% of road trips are

Set up a compost heap in your garden for kitchen towels, boxes, cardboard, vegetables and door

Low-solvent or water-based paints should be used when decorating

Place a water-filled plastic bottle in the lavatory distern to reduce

water use. If you are really serious, install a compost tollet or set up a read-bed sewage system

Make use of windows and reduce

using slug pel

For sale: a tricycle made for three

A three-wheeled solution proved sweet but short-lived for Fiona Maddocks

Ou try your darndest for your children. Occasionally, foolishly, you try your damdest for yourself. My problem was getting around town with two children who were too big for pushchairs, too small for bicycles and too lazy to

Driving anywhere in car-logged Oxford is not an alternative, but since cycling is a high art in this city, there had to be a solution. I looked around. Parental competitiveness was evident in every cycle lane at every school gate, under every gleaming cycle helmet.

Most striking was the tall, thin man with an egg-like hel-met perched on egg-like head, who trailed his family behind. each with their own pedals and wheels added like Meccano, diminishing in size. Having schools, he rattled himself off to work beaming with empty crocodile swing-

ing behind: Then one morning I spotted the dream solution: a beautiful, de, ridden by a distinguished-looking woman with her child wedged into a wire rear basket. I had heard that the woman

was a millionaire. When I investigated and found that these glorious machines cost £700, I knew the rumour to

be true. It made me all the more determined. I scoured the classifieds for a second-hand model and soon found one. £250 with two rear-facing child seats. Eureka! Easy. I bought it, untried, after a hurried inspection en route to a meeting, and was scarcely able to hand the money over fast enough. Two days later the owner's husband delivered it in his trailer. I was mildly surprised that he had not peddled the half-mile journey himself, but men can be idle. The first problem was that the back wheels would not go through the eate. No matter. It is amazing what brute force can do. Never mind the gouged left ankle or the trampled hollyhocks in the front patch that this

tricycle now called home. Try it out first, the woman selling it had sensibly warned. "It has a tendency to go round in circles, also the camber of the road can be tricky...", but we were impatient. The childrent

clambered on. They were already a bit too big, but it would last a couple of years, I would get some exercise, we would get about so much quicker, and we bowled happily along at full throttle, singing "Nobody solves a problem like Maria".

That is almost where this tale ends. We did go out that afternoon. Alarmed by the steep camber on our one-way street and the tendency to tip over, I stuck to the middle of the road, gathering a cortege of cars hooting behind me. Once on the open road, all went well. "Bet they way a ton," shouted one passer-by, referring to the child-ren. "Not a bit," I replied, sweating. The trike itself already weighed a ton. What difference could a couple more on the back make? As we sailed into the city ly. Too frightened and too proud



to stop, we did a circular trip and returned home in one piece. I was elated.

That maiden voyage, alas, was also the last. I had not taken juvenile embarrassment into account. My elder daughter, aged seven, was adamant. Never again. No, no, no. The experience of those people staring was too shaming. It was too "different". She wanted to be the same as other people. Month after month of cajoling, negotiating, bribing, came to naught ... Summer wore on. The roses grew round the handlehars and the hollyhocks grew back, tall and undisturbed, through the

Eventually I gave up and sold it. I could not even explain to the buyer how the pump worked, let alone the unique brakes as I had never had cause to use either. I warned of the camber on the road, and the tendency to go round in circles. The buyer, a woman with two small children. did not listen. She was hungry for possession. I cashed her cheque immediately. Now we take the bus or stay in.



Tricycle riding appeals to some, but not all, youngsters.

Testing your eco-friendliness may prove a revealing experience



Sir Roy Strong found the going tough

ust how ecologically friendly are you? I must confess that I had no idea, but the EcoCal - your "environmental health test" - promised to take less than an hour to complete (either on paper or, as I did it, on computer disk), after which my answers to 36 questions covering transport, energy. shopping, house size and waste would indicate just how far my meagre existence

was helping to wreck planet Earth.

I was emboldened in this eco-quest by Country Living magazine, which had asked luminaries such as Jilly Cooper. Sir Roy Strong and Julian Pettifer to go through the test. They had scored 693, 1.220 and 227 respectively. The higher the score,

the more wasteful the householder. The transport section was easy, as being a motorcyclist — my vehicle's fuel consumption was good. I hardly ever use a car and rarely fly. Soon, though, I was in

serious trouble when asked how many gas units I used each quarter. I had absolutely no idea - so it was just as well that you can enter monetary values from quarterly bills

The page on water was a lot easier, involving simply stating how many baths one took a week, and how often I used a dishwasher. Showers are more eco-friendly than baths, of course, but as I haven't got a shower, nor a dishwasher, I guessed I would be rather average in this section.

Shopping was next how much of my weekly shop originates either from the UK. or abroad? I again guessed, thinking that everything else on the food front would be answerable. But it got worse. How much did I spend on food that was transported by air rather than sea? I didn't know this and how much more wasteful packaging would it take to tell me?

Newspapers I devour, working out my weekly consumption to be over 25, but babies nappies I have, as yet, no use for. As my flat is small and I burn no oil, my ecocredentials were beginning to go to my

But next up were questions on recycling, an activity in which, I have to confess, I have never participated. Ditto "environmental and conservation voluntary work" - I was beginning to feel a little hectored and lectured. And yet, when I got through to my final score, I had notched up a rather respectable 241. Maybe it's a sign of growing up when you finish a test and mumble to yourself: "Should have done

DAVID LANCASTER ♠ EcoCal: tel 0161 2725221:

http://www.gfg.icInet.co.uk

ir s Bonkers

le: a

made

na Maddocks

Simon Crompton takes a tentative step into the Christmas frontline and emerges weary and still none the wiser

Fantasy short supplies for weary troopers

wildered, you slam the front door behind you and drop the keys and bags to the floor. Your head throbs, your feet ache, your arms have been dislocated from your shoulder sockets, and the insides of your finance look as it should be to be the sockets. fingers look as if they have been grasping cheese wires.

For the past four hours you have been barged, herded, trodden on, partially asphyxiated, shouted at through a megaphone, ignored, par-boiled, sneezed on and parted from several hundred pounds. You feel knackaged signed of the should be feel knackered, ripped off, suckered and a complete failure. And you think you've caught a cold. Wel-come home; you've just been Christmas shopping.

Is it only me that leaves the deed

to the last minute not from apathy or bad organisation, but from being frozen by sheer fear? I suspect I am not alone. My paralysed condition precludes any winter shopping activity before sufficient numbers of people have said to me: "Blimey, you'd better get a move on."

Fellow sufferers will share my self-diversionary ploy of finally embarking on the task only by pretending I am actually doing

"Going shopping darling?"
"Oh, um, I just thought I'd take a look at the Regent Street lights."

Dodging dawdlers through the passages of the Underground, I am Gene Hackman in The French Connection. Stuck in pedestrian gridlock outside Hamley's, I am more interested in observing human behaviour than getting through to Liberty.

In recent years. I have taken to merging fantasy and reality further, through a mental computer game I have invented. Originally itwas called Rush Hour, but it has Hell Hole, specifically for shopping

The object of most computer games is invariably to recover the lost treasure or assassinate the evil tyrant of the planet Phithath. But my non-silicon version involves simply getting into the town centre, buying what's on the shopping list, and coming back - alive.

To achieve this, the competitor has to use his special skills of speed and anticipation to negotiate hazards such as congenital slow walkers and groups of Italian tourists blocking main thoroughfares; and irresponsible adults wielding sharp-cornered carrier bags and most feared of all - mothers with aisle-embracing double baby buggies.

It's a game of pace, where you have to keep your cool even when you are on your third circuit of the china department trying to find the down escalator.

Valuable time and energy can be lost if you don't use your naviga-tional and improvisational abilities to the full, especially when wild card unpredictables, such as Tube delays and security alerts, are thrown in to tear the best-laid plans

Most of all, the game is about stamina. Drained by the fruitless search for the unattainable and the retracing of steps as reality dawns and second-best becomes the grail, energy levels on the life meter quickly become critical.

The alternating tropical heat of stores and Arctic cold of streets, along with a recurrent panic that the most important carrier bag has gone missing, also take their toll and a coffee booster pack at Ponti's

becomes a necessity.

But the energy expended in the fight for the counter means the boost" hardly registers, and the flagging competitor decides it is time to opt for the final solution, the do or die option: spend your way

huffling into the peaceful and polite backwater of Nicole Farhi, Paul Smith or Asprey, there is a temporary raising of spirits as the competitor feels civilisation's comforts. Then the ceiling crashes in when he casually asks some prices: "Er ... I was looking for something a little cheaper." Killed by a snooty look, the broken competitor droops into a lifeless heap on the bus sea pathetically fingering a crushed Porky Pig lampshade and mumbling bitterly all the way home. Game over.

I have no desire to continue playing this game. It has to be wrong that spending large amounts of money — which surely should impart a certain reckless frisson — has become a mundane necessity, as thrilling as visiting the

I am tempted to allow fantasy to take over completely, and step on the magic escalator back to 1930s Hollywood Christmasland, where



the right kind of snow falls just enough to sprinkle your shoulders and decorate the window frames, but never enough to slither down your neck or make your nose go

bright red.
This is the land James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan strolled through in Ernst Lubitsch's The Shop Around the Corner, where everyone does their shopping on Christmas Eve and says "Happy Christmas" to everyone else; a land where you not only find the perfect present in the frosted shop window. but the girl of your dreams. This is where I want to shop - but that

nyway. Christmas shop ping at my shop around the corner would result in vinyl-coated drying racks for my wife, some energy-efficient light bulbs for my brother-in-law and a nice jelly mould for my mum.

Family and friends would proba-bly be very polite, but I would find it hard to live with the shame, and

the suggestion that I thought they didn't really merit much more effort than a ten-minute trip to the

But this is perhaps the point. Suffering through shopping has become part of the meaning of Christmas gifts. If my Auntie Joan tells me that my Christmas present was actually bought in April. I have to admit that something inside me is not quite as impressed as if she had been in the thick of the December skirmishes. People know you love them if you're

MAITTIN GILFEATHER

prepared to shop through hell for their sake. Approached that way, perhaps Christmas shopping is not such a pointless game. Ponder on this when the till closes just as you

Consider it when the shop assistant in the toy department tells you that the perfect gift you've been planning for your child since last Christmas was discontinued in January. And if. at such times, you find the thought helpful and calming, then I have to say you're a better person than 1.

INTERNET SHOPS

NEED TO shop but cannot find the time, energy or inclination? You could turn to the Internet for some last-minute gift answers. Search "UK on-line shopping" on your

computer and off you go. It is certainly easy to shop confidently for smaller purchases, such as music CDs and tapes, videos and hooks. An increasing number of high-street names have been scrambling to get in on the on-line ordering act having seen comparatively unknown Internet outlets do booming sales in the past few

HMV is the latest big name to open an Internet order site. Two established UK-based sites are iMS and iBS. Internet Music Shop (musicshop.co.uk) and Internet Book Shop (bookshup.co uk) respectively. Orders run smoothly and the postal dispatch of goods is prompt. Small charges for postage and packing are usually added to Internet orders.

The main thing to remember is that whatever you do order from the convenience of your armchair needs to be delivered to your home. So if you plan to Internet shop because you work long hours, don't forget you may need to be home to receive your order if it is too big to slip through your letterbox (hence the popularity of slim goods like tapes, videos and books).

A MUCH broader site is Classic England (classicengland.co.uk) which brings together produce and products from throughout the Britain. Here you can find everything from "Classic Antiques" to "Classic Toys". Head for "Classic Gourmet" and a virtual food half opens up where you can get Christmas hampers, seafood specialities, even ovenready geese and turkeys. In most cases orders can be placed on-line but, if not, phone and fax ordering details are given.

Since last-day posting deadlines loom, it is always worth checking that your order will be delivered in time for the holiday. But if all this talk of

technology is too much to bear, why not enlist the services of a personal shopper to do it for you? Colour Me Beautiful (0171-720 5097) has more than 200 consultants nationwide who, after an initial consultation, will do all your Christmas shopping, including finding the perfect party outfil. Prices start at

TIM WAPSHOTT

Madeleine Kingsley meets a boy who is able to express his happiness for the first time



David Meiklem before the surgery

ost parents wait six weeks for their child's first smile. Fiona and Colin Meiklem from Lanarkshire waited seven years for David's dimpled grin, the man-made result of innovative and, some might say, controversial, surgery.

David was born with Moebius

syndrome, an extremely rare cluster of disabilities of which an expressionless face is the most marked and, socially at ... least, the most distressing symptom. Only 127 people in the UK are known

to be affected, which is no doubt why the blank mask of sufferers is so unfamiliar and so readily taken to mean, as Colin Meiklem puts it: "That there's nothing much up there." David belies any such snap impression. He wants to be a doctor, devours Aziec history and stumps you with questions such as. Why do people come with different coloured eyes?"

One in 1en Moebius children will have learning difficulties, but far more have eye and speech problems. Some, like David, cannot blink; others find it hard to close their mouths or even their eyes to sleep. But the emotional tragedy for sufferers is that, unless they can adjust to a world that cannot "read" them facially, they may grow up as

very lonely adults. Karen Rosher, 36, an auxiliary nurse and mother of three children from Staines in Surrey, has overlaid her Morbius with such force of personality that when she showed her wedding photos to friends, "it was the first time

they noticed I wasn't smiling". Yet Hayley Teddington, an opera



David, with mother Fiona, can manage a distinctive grin. Left, his touching illustration of the Christmas gift he

A smile for Christmas

buff and crossword devotee from Ramsgate in Kent. looks back on *40 years of torment - and adolescence without fun, followed by ien years of hell working in an Army typing pool. Colleagues didn't want to know me and they brought people in from other departments to laugh and stare.

After David's diagnosis at ten days old. Fiona spiralled into depression though I told no one, not even Colin. for ages. I felt I ought to cope with things, like 98 hospital visits in David's first year. I found it hard to tell people outside the immediate family."

The cloud lifted when David was four and a half, when he was judged able to manage mainstream education. "He was hard for teachers to assess," says Colin, "because he didn't give the appearance of being a bright child. Physical tasks — even holding a pencil were hard, and his speech wasn't clear. Yet he was way ahead with his reading. It was a wonderful moment when we heard his teacher say that David was one of the most rewarding children she had ever taught."

or sad, says Fiona.

o when, aged five, he began to use crayons "and straight away drew thousands of smiley laces", David was making his own poignant point. "Once he started school," says Fiona, "he noticed more and more that he was different."

David could at least show his parents how he felt through body language. "He learnt from about three to tell us verbally when he was excited

"Why am I not happy?" he repeatedly asked his parents. "He'd go to the mirror and pull his lips up with both hands," says Fiona. Until recently, acceptance of that

course. But a couple of years ago, Colin caught a television news item about Douglas Harrison, a plastic surgeon who was already pioneering symmetrical "smile surgery" for Moebius sufferers at Mount Vernon Hospital in Northwood, Middlesex. Mr Harrison emphasises that his

absent smile would have been the only

surgery supplies the face with the power to smile—but not the impulse to the brain that makes the rest of us smile without thought. Patients such as David must not only practise using their acquired smile until it appears natural, but learn to produce it on cue. "We were glad of the 18-month-long

NHS waiting list, because at five David really wasn't up to making the important decision to go ahead with surgery. At seven he was much more able to understand what was involved," Fiona says. Above all, though, it was David's conviction that surgery was what he wanted that swung them.

Ten weeks after the first operation he managed his first glimmer of a lopsided smile. It took a full year for David's mouth to settle into its full, gleeful monty.

it will be a long time before anyone can assess the true impact of David's smile on his future relationships, but their bold choice has paid off. We knew it was worthwhile the day we took David shopping and he couldn't wait to show off his new beam. 'See,' he tells everyone he knows. I can be

● The Moebius Support Group is run

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What will your house be worth?

verage house prices will rise by around 5 per cent next year, according to a panel of experts consulted by The Times. For once, we can have some confidence in their views. Their predictions of what would happen to the market this year have proved uncannily and unusually

They expect prices at the top end of the market in London to slow down next year, rising by around 2 per cent, according to Savills. Higher levels of stamp duty on houses worth more than £250,000 and an over-correction after dramatic price rises this year are expected to take their toll.

From next April, buyers of houses worth up to £60,000 are exempt from stamp duty; those buying houses over £60,000 have to pay I per cent stamp duty: those buying houses over £250,000 have to pay 1.5 per cent; and those buying over

£500,000 have to pay 2 per cent.
The number of sales is expected to increase to 1.5 million in 1998, up from 1.35 million this year.

Sue Anderson of the Council of Mortgage Lenders says: There is no fear in the market, but also no rapid rise in prices. Houses have become less of an 'investment good' and more of a 'consumer good', making the market less volatile."

Two factors could destabilise the market: rising mortgage rates and the contents of the second Labour Budget. But the Government is as keen on a steady housing market as anyone else, with targets for low inflation and low interest rates. A tough spending round next year may hit some of the existing props that support home ownership, such as mortgage interest tax relief and income support for the unemployed unable to meet their mortgage payments. Next year will be the real test of the Government's true atti-

tude to housing.
This year, both the Halifax and the Nationwide reported house price rises of around 7 per cent. Only the most expensive property, in prime areas such as Kensington, Chelsea and Belgravia, out-performed predictions — in some cases by as much

House price rises are slowing but there is still room for optimism.

says Rachel Kelly

GENERAL Sue Anderson, Council of

Mortgage Lenders We expected price rises of 5 to 10 per cent this year, and transactions total about 1.35 million (an increase of 13 per cent). This now looks to have been reasonably accurate. However, the market has not performed in a similar way throughout the country — the averages mask huge differences on

a regional basis. Next year, we expect a relatively stable market. Prices are set to continue to rise, but the extent is likely to be limited to between 5 and o per cent as a result of more properties coming on the market because sellers are no longer hold-

ing out for higher prices.

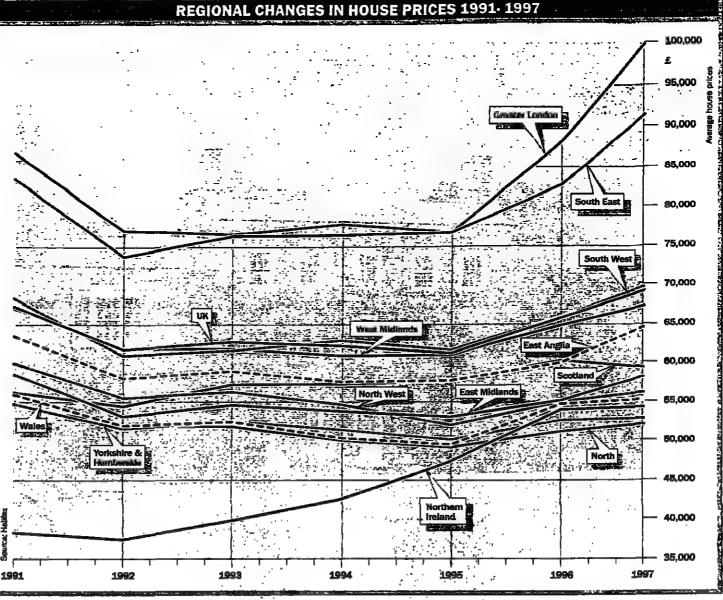
"Higher mortgage rates, the imposition of the higher rate of stamp duty and the reduction in mortgage tax relief to 10 per cent will also slightly dampen demand." Gary Marsh of the Halifax

"We predicted a rise in prices of 7 per cent in 1997 and a 12 per cent increase in sales. This is likely to be slightly on the high side for prices but pessimistic for transactions.

"We expect the current solid recovery in the housing market to continue in 1998 and 1999 with house prices rising by about 5 per cent in both years and levels of sales stabilising at around 1.5 million in England and Wales."

LUXURY HOMES William Gething of Property Vision

We estimated rises of 10 per cent. whereas prices increased by double that. We underestimated the significant effect of City bonuses at the



start of 1997, which injected several hundred million pounds into the

central London market. "Much of this was directed towards family houses in Kensington. where there have been price rises of more than 30 per cent.

The impact of South East Asian buyers purchasing whole blocks of flats was also significant. "The knock-on effect on the coun-

try market was considerable, with prices rising 25 per cent for good family houses. Not only is this market fuelled by the high prices achieved in London, but we have also noticed an increasingly international market for good country houses to the west of London. "We will see a more subdued

market next year, with the exception of a surge driven by City bonuses at the start of 1998. The downward cycle in South East Asian economies will curtail international demand. I predict an early surge but then a flat market for the rest of the year."

HEW HOMES David Mote of the House

Builders' Foundation: Our forecasts of 7 per cent price inflation and 15 per cent growth in sales in 1997 have both been exceeded. Demand did not weaken as much as expected before the election and then bounced back strongly on the back of a remark-

able rise in consumer confidence. "We expect growth in sales and prices, particularly in London and the South East, to slow down. 'Nevertheless, the recovery is

sustainable and prices will rise by up to 4 per cent in many parts of the country in line with employment growth and rises in disposable incomes.

New housebuilding is increasingly constrained by planning re-strictions and delays that have caused a shortage of land. This has reached crisis point for the South East where, despite the profitable conditions offered by price increases and serious shortages of secondhand property, the number of new homes has increased at a rate well below the national average."

COUNTRY HOUSES Rupert Sweeting of Knight

"We forecast rises of up to 10 per cent for the country house market as a whole. The trend nationally has been an increase of 10 per cent to 15 per cent while the market for the best houses has shown rises in some cases of 25 per cent. The larger rises have been localised.

"Next year, a continuing strong economy, low interest rates and large City bonuses will help to drive prices for the best properties up 15 per cent and for the market as a whole up 10 per cent. The lack of supply of houses coupled with increased demand have helped to drive prices up."

MOVES

SMART

SIR EVELYN de Rothschild, chairman of NM Rothschild, has bought a property in Chesham Place, Belgravia, London SWI for £10 million through Knight Frank.

■THE American Am= bassador Philip Lader is renting a large white stucco house in Holland Park



Evelyn de Rothschild

while his official rusidence. Winfield House In Regent's Park. is being refurbished.

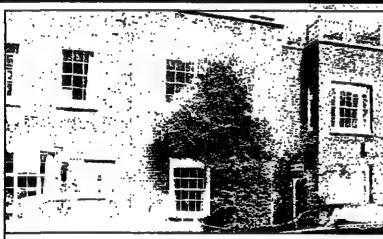
HEATHER MILLS. the model and TV presenter who lost half of her leg in Kensington ly bought a flat in Soho. exchanging contracts in



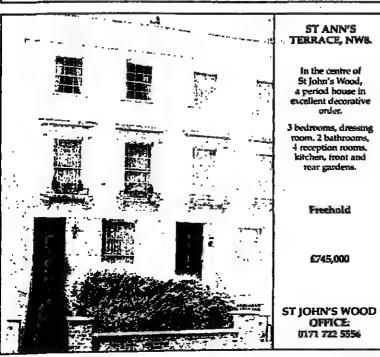
Heather Mills

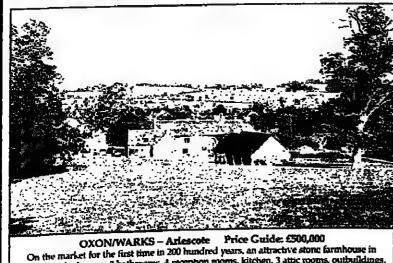
less than 48 hours through the agents LDG of Mayfair. Ms Mills founded the Bosnian children's charity the Heather Mills Trust.

■ TONY SMITH. manager of Genesis and Phil Collins, has bought a newly-built £5 million house in Ladbroke Terrace off Notting Hill Gate, west London.



EDGE STREET, W8. Freehold £545,000 A charming two stoney period cottings in good decorative order with a garage and a large root terrace. 3 bedrooms, bathroom, reception room and kitchen. KENSINGTON OFFICE: 0171 727 0705





s and paddock. About 1.86 ha (4.6 acres). Juni Sole Agents

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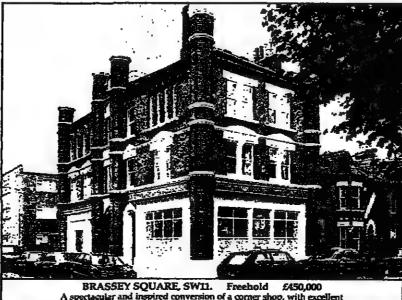
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LONDON

We predicted an average 15 per

cent rise across London with some

areas like Islington showing above-

average growth of 25 per cent or

more. We got it wrong. Between September 1996 through to July

1997, prices of prime Islington

dent on the economy and interest-rate hikes. If the base rate rises

above 8 per cent, the London market

may faiter. Stock market troubles

have led to a more cautious market.

average price growth of between 6

per cent and 8 per cent, with prime property in central London experi-

encing lower growth of 4 per cent. Increased availability across all

price ranges will continue to provide

excellent opportunities for all

"On balance, I would expect

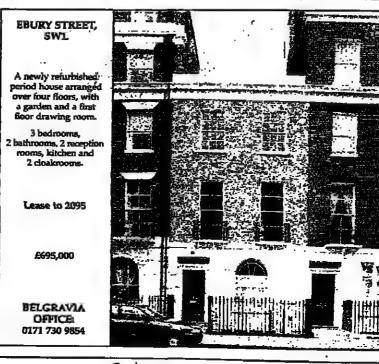
Further growth is largely depen-

property rose by 50 per cent.

Simon Agace, chairman of

Winkworth

we listed 17th century house with extensive views over open cou e rear. 5 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, shower room, 3 reception rooms, kitchen, ha utility room, book room, cloakroom and gardens of about 0.12 hir (0.3 acres). OXFORD OFFICE: 01865 311522





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Have I got mews for you

HOUSE OF THE WEEK

hey can't hang a blue plaque on the wall of Ebury Lodge pro-Viscount claiming Linley lived here" because he never took up residence in his dream home.

But he did have the vision to spot the site, a dilapidated bakery in Belgravia, have it pulled down and replaced with a four-storey double

mews house. It is now on the market for £3.65 million, which should mean a tidy profit for the furniture-maker son of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowden. And, although David Linley, 36, and his arrist wife Lady Serena, 27, never occupied the house, it boasts

three of his fireplaces. One graces the ground floor study, which is furnished with a Linley desk in ebony, burr oak and sycamore, a Linley wine cooler and walnut candlesticks.

The other two fireplaces take pride of place at either

room on the first floor. These are fashioned in light oak, with little ebony roundels and a black marble hearth.

"Two fireplaces? Why not?" says Linley. "You can imagine coming in the door, turning left to a sofa in front of the fire. somewhere quiet to sit; or turning right to another sofa where you can watch telly or play games. It makes the best of the room."

Other items of Linley fur-niture on view include a burr walnut dining table, sycamore bedroom chairs with cherry inlays, and doorstops. "We're in the business of selling furniture so I'm sure we can come to some arrangement if the house buyer wants the furniture," he says.

The Linleys have had a fascinating array of accommodation in their five years of marriage. When David wed Serena in 1993 they occupied a flat in a former prison in fashionable Fulham, southwest London. Rush-hour commuting to his shop, David

Linley Furniture, in Pimlico Road, Beigravia, was too tiresome, so he found the ideal position in the cobbled Ebury Mews, just three blocks away. During the lengthy process gave the broad brush strokes

- planning permission, demo-lition, designing by architect David Rosemont, rebuilding to the architect, who carried ("the foundations go down 65ft, enough to hold up the entire mews") and decor by Lucy Manners, the Duke of Rutland's neice - the Linleys received an offer they couldn't refuse for their Fulham pad.

o they camped out in Kensington Palace for six months and then. impatient for Ebury Lodge to be completed, they fell in love with a spacious loft conversion in a Victorian school building in Battersea.

Linley won't say how much stands to make from the tioned Ebury Lodge, with its five en-suite bedrooms, roof terrace, namny flat, atrium and patio garden with fountain.

residence they could have enjoyed a kitchen stuffed with an Amana fridge-freezer. Smeg hob. Atag extractor. Bosch dishwasher, oven and

out and start again," he says. into the adjoining informal dining area, where Serena paint. The en-suite bathroom, leading from the master bedroom, overlooks Chester Square church. It has a striped mahogany and sycamore floor that looks like a yacht deck, and a whirlpool bath with blue

That, I'm afraid, is nothing to do with me or Serena or our lifestyle," says Linley pointed-ly. "It was put in when we realised we were going to sell the house."

Agent: Savills, SW1 (0171-730 0822).



Ebury Lodge, a four-storey mews house in Belgravia, was built from scratch by the Linleys after the dilapidated bakery which stond on the site was demolished

But he denies he bought it as property speculation. "Absolutely not. It was great to build our dream house from the ground up and put in everything as we would like it. We

> out the detailed work. It was to be our family home," he says. Yes. family home. But he resists any questions about the impending patter of tiny feet. "As soon as we got married people started asking when were we having children," he protests. So the nursery remains superfluous to requirements, as does the basement gym. "We don't work out," says Linley. "We're quite active enough without using

> > things will change in ten years' Linley spends much of his Wales, Whitby, Norfolk and Dorset. "It would be nice to arrive home and always find somewhere to park. There are

four parking spaces." Had the couple taken up microwave. "The sad thing is that someone will rip things

French windows and an octagonal skylight flood light also planned to sculpt and

The master bedroom. All five bedrooms at Ebury Lodge have en-suite facilities

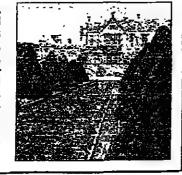
DESIGNERS' DREAM HOMES

Andrew Varah, the cabinet-maker, lives with his wife Helen and daughter Alice in a Inth-century farm-house near Rugby. Warwickshire. The property, bought in 1972 for £16,000, was rebuilt, with tradesmen paid in items of



Ross Lovegrove, the furniture designer. lives with his wife, Miska, an architect. and son in a converted warehouse above their studio in Notting Hill. west London. The 1950s former leather warehouse was bought in 1991 and rebuilt into a three-bedroom Modernist house.

John Makepeace, OBE, the designer and furniture maker, lives with his wife. Jennie, in Parnham House, near Beaminster, Dorset The Grade I listed house, which dates back to the 15th century, has 80 rooms and has been converted into a school for craftsmen in wood.



MARKET COMMENT.

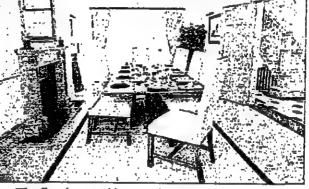
BELGRAVIA has long been one of the best London districts, but despite its cachet. the area is not to everyone's taste. It is a genteel, heavily residential area with little commercial use, and it lacks the atmosphere of buzzier enclaves such as Chelsea or

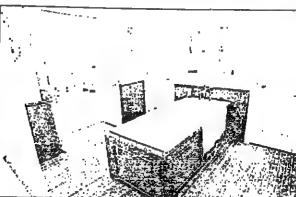
even Knightsbridge. As a consequence it attracts wealthy but middle-aged UK and foreign buyers looking for the combination of relative peace and a prime central London address. The attractions are obvious. The huge stucco-fronted houses, built in the 1840s, are among the grandest in town, the King's Road is a ten-minute walk away, as are many of London's top hotels, the West End is a short cab ride away, and the caterers can always pop out to Harrods food hall for those last-minute necessities.

Of course, one pays through the nose for such a neighbourhood, and for the architectural glory and sheer scale of the properties. However, many have relatively short leases. which can detract from their saleability, and there is also a general shortage of garage space and gardens. Indeed, Andrew Langton of estate agents Aylesford is among those who consider that other parts of London may have stolen the baton from Belgravia. He cites the Boltons in Chelsea as an area where values have outstripped those of Belgravia.

Eaton Square, despite heavy traffic, is considered the most desirable address. Most of its houses have been converted into apartments, and even the cheapest flat on the shortest lease fetches £300,000-plus. Houses there have sold for as much as 520 million. Next on the list is Chester Square, which is dominated by houses valued from £2.5 to £4 million, followed by Wilton Crescent, where one long-lease house is on the market at £7 million. As a rule of thumb, says Mr Langton. expect to pay around £1,000 per sq ft for the best apartments. and £800 per sq ft for houses in Belgravia. But he adds a note of warning: the upkeep of these houses is a pricey business and service charges can be as much as £20,000 per year.

FAITH GLASGOW





The fireplace and burr-walnut dining table are Linley's design. The bathroom has a sycamore striped floor



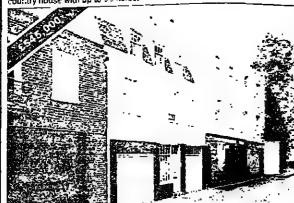
HOMESWAP

Knightsbridge in the range £400,000 to £700,000 rose 30 per cent or more in the first six months of 1997, but have since fallen back. Demand has been led partly in tougher parking restrictions in the capital. When we val a mews house, garage space is as expensive as the living area," says Antonie Lurot, of Lurot Brand, the Luridon Mews Company.

Antoine Lurot, of Lurot Brand, the condon meets company.

Demand from London buyers looking for family homes in Gloucestershire
has driven prices up 15 per cent this year, according to Knight Frank,
Country houses in the £350,000 to £500,000 bracket, which buye a
renovated £004/ear-old £015/vold stone farmhouse with paddocks, are highly
renovated £004/ear-old £015/vold stone farmhouse with paddocks, are highly removated Econyear-old Cossess Some forminates and paracolas, are hig sought-after and in short supply Popular areas include the Coln Valley, around Bibury and Quenington, 30 minutes drive from Sixindon, an hour

There has been no property boom in Herelotashire. However, good country houses are being snapped up by London emigrés and prices are rising. Popular areas include Ross-on-Wye and Ledbury, where you can buy a four-bedroom Georgian village house for between £200,000 and £250,000. A sub-bedroom period retten, on the edge of a village, will cost around £350,000. For between £500,000 and £650,000 you could buy a large couptry house with up to 50 areas. There has been no property boom in Herelordshire. However, good country rountry house with up to 50 acres.



Expect to pay 5545,000 for this three-bedroom house and garage in Wilton News, between filestal Street and Chapel Street in the heart of B London SW1 (Forlans, 0171-590 1000)



With £525,000 you could bus The Old House, a an-bedroom Grade II* listed medieval hall, at Frampton on Severn. Gloucestershire, adjoining open fields and overlooking a peaceful village green (Knight Frank, 01285 659771).



For the same sort of mones you could buy Wigmore Abbey in Wigmore. Herefordshire, a Grade i listed house with 12th-century origins, with five acres of garden, pasture and peddocks, it has six reception rooms and eight

FULHAM

Houses that pay for themselves

Instead of bringing home the bacon, couples are now serving it to paying

guests. Adam Barker reports

We now

have so

time for

Employers' Forum has finally proved that "downsizing" is not just a phrase invented by the media. The report calculates that, between 1990 and 1995, Britain's top 12 companies cut their workforce on average by 44 per cent.

As house prices in London and other big cities approach peaks unseen since the boom of the late 1980s, for many people this is the right time to flee the rat race before they become further additions to the report's depressing Running a bed and break-

fast in the country-side can be the perfect antidote to years of accumulated city stress, and many families have done exactly much spare that, heading away sprawl to set themselves up in busiourselves ness and at the

same time taking ... we feel a on a completely new lifestyle. real part of When Mary and Tony Dakin moved village life' into the Old Parsonage in the village of Frant in

motivation was simple. As Mrs Dakin puts it: "We bought this house so that we could change our lives."
It certainly did that. Before the move, Mr and Mrs Dakin lived in nearby Edenbridge and commuted daily to PR jobs in London. Their new nine-bedroom house cost around £500,000 and was built in 1820 by the Marquis of Abergavenny for his son, a local rector. The Dakins are

Mrs Dakin says: "When we first moved in, the house was a complete shambles. The garden was a jungle and we had to evict squatters from the house itself before we could start renovation work."

the first non-clerics to live

But since that uncertain beginning, their lifestyle has

definitely improved. Says Mrs Dakin: "We now have so much spare time for ourselves and our seven and nine-yearold sons. Tony has become a keen amateur photographer and I spend a lot of time making tapestries. For the first time we feel a real part of village life.'

Running bed and breakfast accommodation can have its unexpected rewards. Last year the Dakins spent their holiday in North Carolina courtesy of some American guests with whom they struck up a friendship. And when the Dakins' nine-year-old son needed some help with his school space

project, they were able to call upon a former guest who worked at Nasa. At Christmas, the family receives cards and presents from all over the For Robin and

Ann Palmer, own-ers of the Yorkshire Rose guest house in Settle, North Yorkshire, the hardest part was finding a base for their first B&B.

Mrs Palmer recalls that they East Sussex in 1989, their drove more than 3,500 miles across the length and breadth of Yorkshire before finding their dream B&B, an old doctor's house in Settle. Everything fell into place after that for the 63-year-old former miner and his wife, a former

> rian and Everyi Maddell, who pur-chased Waterford House in Middleham, North Yorkshire, in 1988, see the other benefits of moving into the B&B business.

The best part of our business is getting to live in this wonderful old house with beautiful antique furniture. We would never be able to afford to live somewhere so grand, certainly not anywhere near London," says Mrs Maddell. With five letting



Everyl and Brian Maddell: "The best part is getting to live in this wonderful old house"

bedrooms, the Maddell home now pays for itself.

Then there are the amusing moments that often arise when cultures collide. "Americans are the oddest nationality we have to stay," says Mrs Paimer. "We have had some of

them bringing their own wafgentleman pointed at the Dales above Settle and asked my husband 'Who built these wonderful hills?"

While running a B&B is largely a positive experience.

there are a few drawbacks the novices must become accustomed to - a lack of privacy. for example.

Mrs Dakin admits that

guests can sometimes intrude into family life. "Some people are quite insensitive about our

Europe, a besutiful cossilies and a cosmopolitum way of tits. For details on your new villa spirings Fortugue. Tak 01296 336 225 UK. Fam 00381 82 341285 Fortugal.

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OVERSEA

CASE STUDY

For Brian and Every Maddell, the benefits of downsizing lay in acquiring a unique and lovely property. Their home, Waterford House in the North Yorkshire village of Middleham has six bedrooms, six bathrooms, two sitting rooms, a barn and two walled gardens.

Mr Maddell bought the house for £159,000 in 1988, which was then the price of a smart three bedroom flat in Battersca. The Middleham home is now worth between £250,000 and £300,000. Tens of thousands of pounds have been lavished on the property. Period furniture is really the only option for an early 19th-century house, with beams dating back to the time of Richard III. whose castle stands 100 or so metres away.

For two sharing a room with breakfast at Waterford House, the Maddells charge around E70. With an evening meal, guests would spend between £140 and £200 for the

Brian and Everyl Maddell, Waterford House, Middleham, North Yorkshire (01969 622090).

personal space and barge into the kitchen without knocking."

But on the whole, managing rural bed and breakfast provides an attractive lifestyle for a downsizer. And there are more than enough memories of happy customers and complimentary reviews in guide books and the press to compensate for the occasional tiresome guest.

● Ann and Robin Palmer, the Yorkshire Rose Guest House. Settle, North Yorkshire (0.0792 8220332). ◆ Mary and Tony Dakin, the

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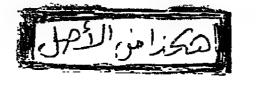
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Physics strikes a balance with nature among the double-waved earthworks and curving ponds

Unearthing the seeds of chaos theory

Dazzled by dynamics and blinded by science, Jane Owen visits a verdant monument to complex theory and fine-tuned physics

ME AND MY GARDEN: CHARLES JENCKS

harles Jencks, who de-fined post-Modernism and tangled with the Prince of Wales over architectural philosophy, is having horizontal gene transfer theory explained to him by scientists Mae Wan Ho and Peter Saunders. How, Mr Jencks wonders aloud, can this be expressed in his DNA garden?

Mr Saunders suggests the tennis ball ejecting machine should be moved out of the tennis court (aka the Fair Play garden) and left to shoot across the lettuces, sculptures, thistles, paths and mound which denote various aspects of DNA in the Physics garden (as opposed to the medieval physick

This is part of a 300-acre estate on the Scottish borders where Mr Jencks, the American thinker and architect, together with his late wife Maggie Keswick, the expert on Chinese gardens, thumbed through chaos theory, soliton waves, genetics, physics and feng shui to come up with a unique landscape. Not since Capability Brown has anyone been so bold.

"What I am trying to do is make waves," says Mr Jencks. And he is, although his method involves a vast earthworks where the landscape has been sculpted to represent the Theory of Folding (in which strings of amino acids fold to make 3D structures, affecting the

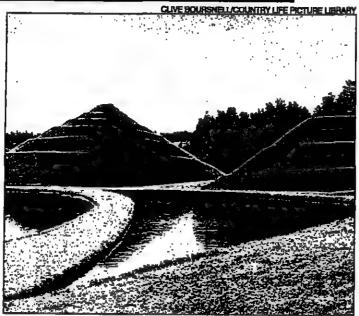
performance of a protein). The earthworks create the greatest sensation: a 50ft spiral mount with a double helix, both paths cut in such a way that when you head up, you have first to drop

down, and vice versa. Below, curving pools reflect the autumn trees and a 35ft double wave. or dragon, of turfed earth. They may represent current scientific thinking; they certainly represent a lot of maintenance. It takes four days of teetering about on the causeways and tiny paths of the mounds to

mow them. Alistair Clark, the head gardener, has de-vised a precarious systern involving a Flymo on the end of lengths of rope,

and a disabled safety catch. The garden began when Maggie decided to clear a marshy area. With the resulting earth, we made the dragon and the mount," says Mr Jencks, whose great-uncle. also called Charles, was a landscaper in North America.

it cost a tenth of a Hockney painting. A big Hockney painting. Inst think, you can hang a picture on your wall or cause the earth to move. I did make drawings, but in the end you give the drawings to



Freshly manicured, the pathways are a triumph of technique

architecture

of the

garden

moves on

with

every new

theory that

Jencks

the men in the bulldozers and, well, they come up with something like your drawing."

To the front of the house, which looks across a valley to the rolling Borders countryside, is a grey stone ha-ha with red sandstone articulation representing a dragon ... and the jumping universe. And nearby is a newly made black hole. It is neither black nor a hole, but Mr Jencks is critical of the common names for scientific ideas and brings scientists and artists to the shapes of different scale. "Natre is never self-same but self-similar," Mr Jencks says.

Scouring on the surface of the aluminium panels represents the warping of space and provides grip for those walking down the black hole (the tail) on to the baby universe (the fish body), a drinks terrace with pleasant views across the earthworks below.

To the right is the Symmetry Break Terrace, an elongated lemon shape made of rays of gravel and

turf. There are four jumps in the creation of the universe. This is a story of the universe."
Mr Jencks agonises
about the way the story ends in his representation: with some bits of wood scrunching into each other at one end of the "lemon".

"Some people main-tain the universe will end like this though - the universe going in on itself. Anyway, you are allowed to cheat — a little."

In the woods nearby is

a brightly painted metal and wood folly built for pounces on' the Royal Academy by Jim Stirling, altered by Mr Jencks, and a wayward tree that fell and temporarily deconstructed the Modernist architect's work. One of the few completely traditional components of this garden is a T-shaped green-

house full of house plants, but even this causes a double take. From the front of the greenhouse, a path leads through a tiny circle of yew hedge with a black hole at its centre. Truly a hole, and black in its



Sculptured double helix



Keswick estate to discuss the latest theories of the world and decide how best to express them.

The black hole is shaped like a

Christian fish symbol, with its

"tail" slapped up against the slop-

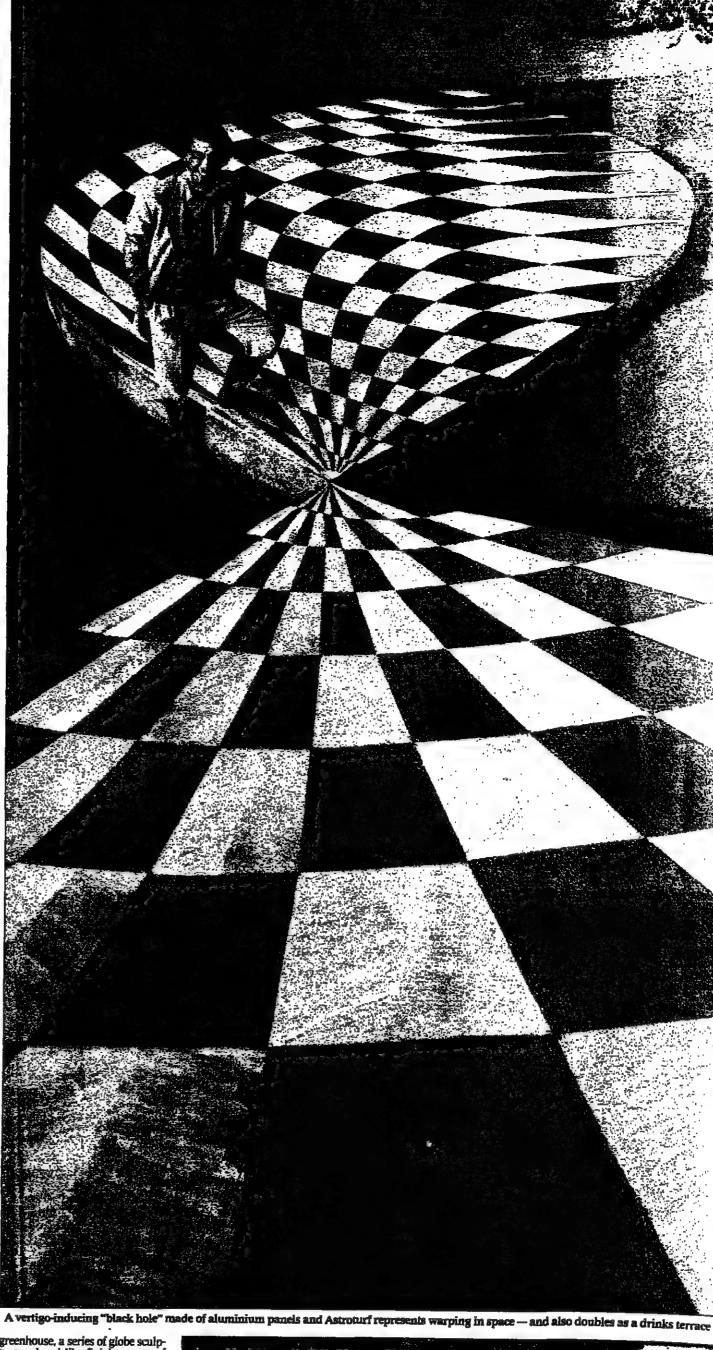
ing edge of the grass bank and its "body" flat across a grass terrace.

Panels of scoured aluminium and

Astroturf, all roughly diamond-

shaped, but warping in size and

shape so no two are identical, illustrate one of Mr Jencks's cur-Between this black hole and the rent obsessions: fractals, repeating Afred wooden bridge and the winding canal together form a pleasing contrast of delicate shapes



greenhouse, a series of globe sculp-tures, placed like finials on top of six pillars, represent theories of creation. The globe theme contin-ues on the other side of the greenhouse, but here in bronze to represent another era. "Bronze age. you see," says Mr Jencks.

ates between the gardens are wrought iron undulations in the shape of soliton waves - small, hump-shaped waves that do not alter much as they travel. They are likely to transform the communications industry because they can be filled with information and sent through fibre optics without much loss of fidelity. The handles to these gates are polished, spiral-atterned fossils.

This attention to detail echoes through the garden. The DNA garden was originally planned as a Scotland. But the original patterns have been scored with curves of white concrete representing cells and DNA

Essentially, the garden is divided into six main squares representing six senses: intuition; touch - a waving hand in the midst of nettles and thistles; the hearing garden with chimes and a radar-like disc; sight - a tiny grass mound with a grotto-like cavity into which you peer through an eyeglass; smell which will have drains at the centre and a sweet-smelling planting around the edge; and taste - a beautiful aluminium sculpture of curves and spirals representing DNA set in the middle of an immaculate salad garden.

Mr Jencks professes to be "an

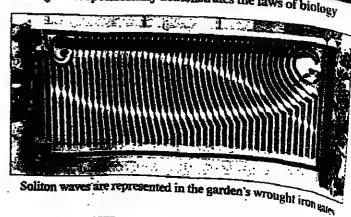
idiot" about plants, which were his



Tended by Alistair Clark, the DNA garden spectacularly demonstrates the laws of biology

late wife's forte. Now Mr Clark and his team maintain planting perfection. But the architecture of the garden moves on with every new theory about the natural world that Mr Jencks pounces upon.

In the meantime, a footmaze of grass and aggregate is planned, along with a dry cascade. But I have given up trying to keep up with Mr Jencks's theories about what these garden features represent. His landscape has a rhythm and a beauty that can speak for



Why British trees are best

They may be more expensive but,

says Jane Owen,

home-grown

Christmas trees are worth it

f you are among the 20 per cent of the British population who ding to tradition by erecting a real tree at Christmas, it is time to show nationalist zeal by buying British instead of paying a fortune for a dubious Danish tree from your

nearest layby. The foreign fir will probably have travelled in appalling conditions and will shower needles incontinently as soon as you move the tree into your living room.

If you buy British you get fresh, reliable trees which will lose only a few needles. Aim to pay £10-£15 for a top quality two-metre Norway spruce or Scots pine, or about £25 for the same sized Nordmann or Noble fir. the fine, slightly blue-tinged tree with minimal needle drop.

A few Christmas-tree growers operate something akin to Pick Your Own, although, having chosen your tree, they do the picking. Those of you who do not know of a Christmas-tree grower should contact the Christmas Tree Growers Association which has a list of growers nationwide.

Trees have to be nurtured according to how they are bought. Cut trees need up to a pint of water a day; in mot ball form they have to be planted into plenty of moist compost; bare roots have to be soaked in a bucket of water for a few hours before being planned. Potted trees, which have not been prepared as carefully as mot-halled specimens, need extra cure and watering; container grown trees have to be watered; and blocked trees - those whose trunks have been shoved into a wood block stand for easy erection - have to be kept as cool as possible because they cannot be watered.

The range of trees grows by the year, and the claims get wilder, but some varieties one certainly better at keeping their needles than others. And most, so long as they are freshly cut, smell of pine. But remember, if you give a tree a shake and some needles fall off, don't buy it.

● The Christmas Tree Cirowers Association is at 12 Lauriston Road. Wimbledon, London SW19-4TQ. Send an SAE for details of growers in



Give the tree a good shake and if needles fall off, don't buy it. Most varieties need plenty of water

■ Blue spruce hangs on to its pretty blue-green needles well but they are

the most expensive trees.

■ Norway spruce is the traditional British Christmas tree. It has bad needle drop but is cheap. Nordmann or Caucasian fir is a handsome, regularly-shaped tree with a slight blue tinge. Serbian spruce has a silvery look because the

needles are pale blue. Scots pine holds on to its twisted needles the best of all the trees featured here. Noble fir is a fine deep blue-green. It has a regular

shape and excellent needle retention. Lodgepole pine sometimes comes with cones but it is a coarser, less regularly shaped tree.

PICK YOUR OWN

The blue-grey white fir or concolor is supposed to smell of oranges when the needles are crushed. Maybe the ones I suiffed had been cut too long but I could smell only pine.

Grand fir, Fraser fir and Korean fir are all unusual and look like Norway spruce.

For armchair Christmas shoppers, Marks & Spencer has mail-order Nordmann firs for £65.

For the wretched souls who insist on artificial trees or for the overwhelmingly indolent, B&Q has a readydecorated oft Treeluminate with twinkling lights - a snip at £55. Or, for the modern slouch, a 36in fibreoptic tree (£40) in a myriad of purple, orange and



Norway spruce: bad needle drop



Nordmann fir: blue tinged needles



Korean silver fir: unusual cones

GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers letters

On the north side of my house is a triangular bed between walls vhich meet at right angles. The bed measures about 2m on each side, and faces north. Can you suggest suitable shrubs to make an attractive design? I would like to plant a climbing Hydrangea petiolaris on the wall at the back. J. McLeod, Ashurst Wood,

A Perhaps you might consider letting the hydrangea have the whole bed to itself? It can spread across the ground and function as a flowering shrub, as well as a self-clinging wall or tree climber. Meanwhile, how about the purple climbing monkshood, Aconitum volubile, to grow through hydrangea? There would be room for only one other large shrub. For real drama i would plant an Aralia elata — the speciacu-lar foliage could be seen through as it got taller.

We have been told that our 50st blue spruce is dead or dying and have permission in this conservation area to fell it. It shed many needles in the spring, and made no new growth. One tree sureon said it was only infested with aphids ecause of drought stress. So will it recover, given time and normal weather?

— L.A. Darke, London W-L

A On a weak tree. I would persevere and hope for better things. A healthy tree can withstand insect attack. But if your tree dropped many needles and did not open new buds this spring, then it is dying. Give it another year if you

want to be sure, but I expect the arboricultural officer who gave permission to fell knew what he was doing.

Q seedling in a pot. h stood outdoors during the mmer and indoers on frusty nights and cold days. know there can be low temperatures overnight in the tropics, if not actual frost. Do I need to keep bringing it in, and should it be fed? — C.N. Turner, New Milton, Hants.

A it really needs a cool-greenhouse for the winter, where it could shed those lovely double feathery leaves. Keep it dryish through the winter, and pot on and feed gradually each spring. Jacaranda will produce its soft blue flowers in a large pot or tub, given good summers, and 2-3m of growth. It will withstand frost, but it is better without. especially while very young.

Everyone thinks I'm Q crazy. I want to grow a white rose on a mortis wall, and set up a foricovered reflector to put sunlight on the wall. Advice please. - M. Hall, Leichworth, Herts.

A You are most unlikely to reflect enough hear to ripen the wood and produce a good white rose on a north wall. Far better to settle for something else. A white Clematis montana would do, or a white form of Clematis alpina.

 Write to: Garden Answers. Weekend, Toe Times. l Pennington Street, London El 9XN. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. letters cannot be returne

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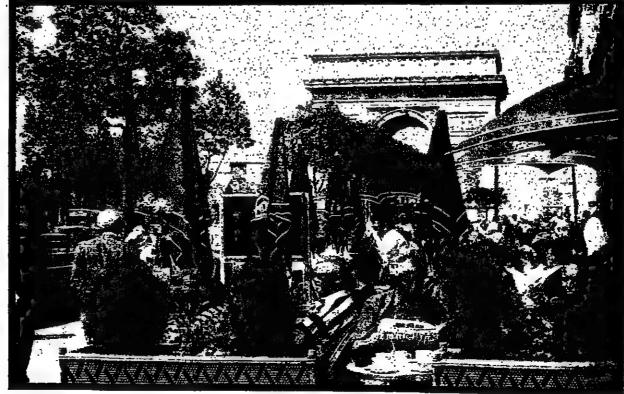
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CHANGING TIMES

· prickl of red

Prickly pairings of red and green

After unusually early frosts, holly should be bursting with colour. Nigel Colborn plants the best of the bunch

his looks like being a vintage year for holly. Expect a larger than average crop of extrabright berries after the unusually early autumn frosts which, far from causing damage, burnished the foliage. Branches harvested over the next few days should be in lustrous condition.

The common species, Ilex aquifolium, is a native British plant and is the best of the berry-bearers. The trees can be male or female and they need to grow within bee-range of one another if they are to be successfully pollinated.

This is an excellent time of year both to buy and to plant holly, so here are some choices for a starter collection:

Hex x aquifolium 'J.C. van Tol' is a female variety with bottle-green foliage, well-glossed, but not too prickly. It has excellent vigour, and a dependable, hefty crop of bright red berries. It is the most likely to bear fruit, even

with few male trees nearby. Her x altaclarensis Gold-



Prickly silver 'Ferox argentea'; the thornless 'Camellifolia'

female, despite its masculine moniker. It is similar in size and characteristics to aquifolium, but carries gold markings on every leaf.

Ilex aquifolium 'Ferox argentea' is colloquially known as Silver Hedgehog Holly' because its leaves are not merely armed along the margins, but carry prickles over the whole upper surface.

The leaves are stippled with whitish variegations, giving the tree a silvery effect.



a totally thornless variety— try Iler 'Camellifolia', the camellia-leaved holly. Ilex aquifolium 'Handa-

worth New Silver is the stateliest of the silver variegated hollies. The leaves are larger than average — up to four inches long — with regu-larly spaced prickles and handsome creamy margins. Their effect is heightened by the young stems whose bark is a deep purple. It is a female with a moderate to heavy crop of blood-red berries.



įlex x altaclarensis 'Belgica aurea' is capable of growing into a large tree.

The large leaves are almost spineless, gin-bottle green, edged with broad margins of golden yellow. The female bears a moderate crop of berries whose glowing red makes a hot contrast with the gold and green of the foliage. If grown naturally, the tree develops a pyramidal shape.

Sometimes sold incorrectly as Other vellow variegated

WINTER

Conservatory 50%

forms include *Her* 'Madame Briot', whose young leaves are burnished with bronze, setting off the gold, and Her Lawsoniana', whose almost thornless leaves are streaked lime green and yellow.

Hex aquifolium Green Pillar is the best of the green hollies for a restricted space. A slow-growing variety, whose all-green leaves are the traditional, prickly shape and whose berries are the standard blood-red with a high gloss.

The unique selling point of

this variety is its growth habit. It forms a perfectly natural column, slightly wider at the base than the apex. If you prefer a wider, loose pyramid shape go for *Ilex a*. "Pyramid-aiis". There is a super weeping variety too, called lier a.

GARDON PICTURE LIBRAR

Ilex aquifolium flava' (also known as 'Fructu htteo) is a yellow-berried form of the common holly. The fruits turn daffodil yellow. which widens the colour range of winter berries available.

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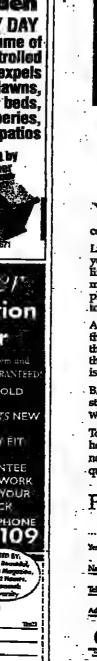
'J.C. van Tol' gives a dependable crop of bright-red berries











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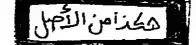
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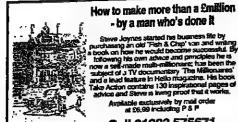
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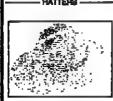
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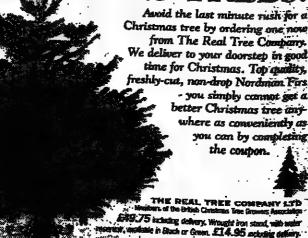
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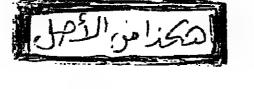
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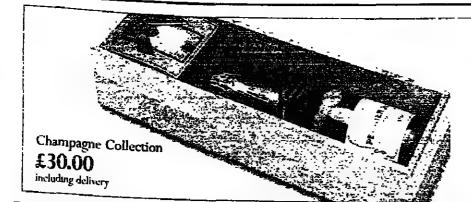


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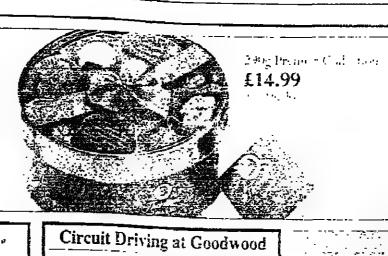
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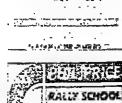
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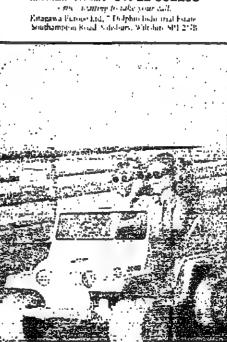


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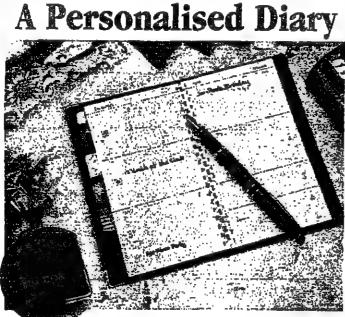
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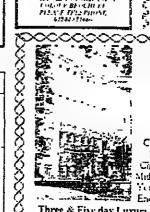


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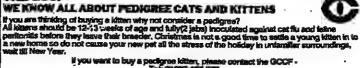
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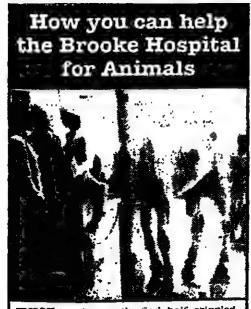


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f you thought pigs would fly before parrots would roller-

skate, think again. This week-

end bird-owners from all over Britain are descending on Birmingham for the National Cage and Aviary Birds Exhibition.

to show off birds that will not only tweet, flap and sing, but put wheels on their feet, drive toy cars,

hoist flags and imitate telephones.

not just about looks, although

there will be about 8,550 competi-

tors that will be judged on their

feathers, wing span, size and condition. The feathered creatures

that most people will come to see will be those that perform: parrots

that can rollerskate and ride

bicycles, a cockatoo that pulls a

cart, and tens of others who will be

trying to outwit each other in the

talking competition. Entrants in

this one include a cockatoo that

can bark like a dog, a parrot that

speaks English and Italian, and

another that can wolf-whistle and

imitate a microwave oven or

gurgling water.

Although it is great fun having a performing bird, it is also a long.

hard slog, according to experts.

Not only are many of the best birds

expensive to buy and keep — parrots can cost up to £1,000 — but

training them can be a frustrating.

even a heartbreaking, experience.

strating performing parrots for 22

years (she learnt how to do it in

Australia) and uses crested cocka-

toos and South American macaws.

"Parrots," she explains, "have the

intelligence and the characteristics

of a three-year-old child. They're

manipulative, acquisitive, inquisi-

tive, noisy, demanding and de-

structive. But children grow out of

to get a parrot to do is to keep quiet.

They are a huge responsibility, tremendously demanding. You have to alter your lifestyle to fit

Miss Goulder advises would-be

owners to think carefully about the

One of the most difficult things

it, and parrots never do

that of the parrot."

Jackie Goulder has been demon-

Like Crufts, this competition is

Show's as slick as a parrot kind of household and neighbours Some winged creatures can not only they have before shopping for a parrot. "You should be asking walk and fly, but rollerskate too. whether you and the neighbours could stand the noise, and whether **Jack Crossley** meets the contestants your children would tease the parrot, or even get bitten," she battling to become Britain's top birds In America, training parrots to do tricks is becoming increasingly popular; most owners are spurred on by the demands of film and advertising companies which pay performing creatures well. In Britain the demand is not as high, and many bird purists disapprove of reaching creatures to do acts that are obviously unnatural. Darren Beasley is the bird trainer at the Marquess of Bath's Longleat estate, and one of an exclusive club of a dozen or so people in Britain who demonstrate their skills - and parrot intelligence - at exhibitions, parks and zoos around the country. e is insistent that nothing is performed that would demean the creatures. All his tricks are devised to demonstrate the birds' natural abilities the roller skating and bicycleriding tricks, for instance, do not involve them being strapped to encourages the bird to relate to its their equipment. owner. "The bird will not perform Parrots are inquisitive creatures, so will want to know, for if it doesn't want to. It won't do it if example, what rollerskates are. is not happy," he says. Veteran parrot trainer Reg Bloom who has shown parrots racing, flying through hoops, driv-Gradually, by rewarding them, you get them to raise a foot and Alpha, a 15-year-old red and green stand on a skate. Eventually you produce the other skate, until it ing electric cars, placing square pegs in square holes, hoisting a South American will stand on both of them. macaw owned by "It works because parrots have got zygodacti feet — two toes that flag to start the show, and rolling Jackie Goulder, over to die for England says: "The has been birds love it. Mine will jump up point forwards and two toes that performing since point backwards, which means and down saying: 'it's my turn.' they can use their feet like hands. But he warns: "It can take six months old. In They also use their beak as a third months to get them to be happy summer, it just flying to your hand. Not every owner can do it. Not every bird can hand, so when they are riding a rollerskates and bicycle they use both feet to grasp rides a scooter the pedals and their beak to hold

When is a church like a zoo? When dogs, cats, rats, rabbits, fleas and horses go to meet the vicar, says Robin Young

do it. Some are real numbskulls

● The 54th National Cage & Aviary

Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, today and tomorrow (0121-780 4133).

Birds Exhibition is at the Nationa

and will never do it.

Blessed are the beasts and the birds

on to the handlebars."

David Alderton, editor of Pet

Business World magazine and

author of several books on bird-

keeping, approves of anything that

shared my pew at the back of the north aisle in St Stephen's Church, Rochester Row, with four rats. I suppose by comparison with people in the south aisle. I had little right to feel uncomfortable. They had a flea circus as neighbours.

The event was the third annual blessing of the animals by the Rev Ralph Godsail at his church near the horticultural halls in Vincent Square, southwest London, in aid of the Animal Health Trust, It had attracted a congregation of 600, about three-fifths of it

Animal blessing services are steadily growing in popularity, and received a huge boost when Dawn French triumphed in one in her TV role in The Vicar of Dibley.

Mr Godsall said the purnose of the exercise was to remind people, especially children, that animals too are part of God's creation.

"Animals feature in the creation in Genesis and at Christ's birth in Bethlehem." he said. "In modern society animals provide much of the companionship and comfort to many, so people like the idea that we should thank them by blessing them."

I would not miss this service for the world," said one local resident, nursing a Yorkshire terrier of nippy tendencies. "It makes an outing for Silky, and a real treat for me to see so many people enjoying each other's company and each other's pets."

Round here," said a lady with a handsome cat in a carrier-cage, "the animals can only go out if you are with them. It's terribly dangerous for them with the road traffic. the louts and all the frightening noises. I think Sparks is enjoying tonight, because it's one of the few occasions that she gets to see there are other cats in the world."

As church services go this one was, predictably, mildly chaotic. That was not the animals' fault. They were for the most part perfectly wellbehaved, if inattentive, but they did distract the children who made up more than half of Mr Godsall's audience.

Pupils of the church's choir school, the Burdett-Courts School, mingled with kids of the neighbourhood, admiring each others' gerbils, hamsters.

cats, dogs and budgerigars. The four rats, property of star attraction. "I think rats



Olwyn the police horse takes a star turn in church

ure so lovely," said a pretty blonde girl, to Adam's evident satisfaction. He let her put one of the rodents on her shoulder. where it promptly tangled itself in her hair. Delighted shrieks and giggles followed. and then Adam effected a chivalrous rescue.

Pride of place at the back of the church was taken by two Metropolitan police horses, Keswick and Olwyn, who came in through the large west door just as the service was about to begin.

They were not encouraged to venture beyond a floorarded area, for fear their hooves might crack the nave's marbled flooring. The order of service

permitted mention of much of the animal kingdom. Mr Godsall pointed out that animals were a gift from God, and that they set us an example of patience, loyalty and friendship.

Camels, giraffes, monkeys. hyenas, whales, snails, quails, hogs, dogs and frogs, bats, rats and cats all worked their way into the opening song. Butterflies, robins, fish, elephants, kangaroos, octopuses, worms, billy goats and bears

featured in the second. Then John McCririck.

mentator, read from Wind in the Willows, the bit where Mole and Rat are awe-inspired to worship. Mr McCririck, the vicar pointed out, had not only brought his partner with him. He had brought his dog as well.

Channel 4's horse-racing com-

The choir sang The Bare Necessities from the film of The Jungle Book and then actress Liz Fraser read John Betjeman's poem, Diary of a Church Mouse, rather risky in its mention of people who did

Apart from the fleas, the smallest animals were albino frogs and goldfish'

> not come to church at all. except for harvest festival. Many of this congregation. one suspected, seldom put in an appearance save for the blessing of the animals. The effectiveness of Ms Fraser's reading was only partly marred by the shrill catcalls from a cage of budgerigars at the back of the church.

Another song extended the menagerie with the addition of shark, lark, tabby cat, desert chimpanzee. common



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at the Eden Farm

Museum near

Malton in North



Adam Macfarlane readies his pet rats for the service

tern, crawling worm (the previous worm was only wig-gly"), the mongrel dog. snorting hog, badger, platy-pus, minnow and rhino. One hoped in vain for something leonine, or at least Tiger, Tiger Burning Bright.

instead, a representative of the Animal Health Trust attempted a roll call of pets present. Quite a few children, it transpired, lacking live pets. had brought stuffed and soft toy animals along instead. Apart from the fleas, the smallest animals

around appeared to be albino frogs and goldfish. No one, surprisingly, confessed to having brought mice. "We had mice last year." said the man in the pulpit, sounding disappointed. Although he didn't get responses

to his request for reptiles, he did find some rabbits. Then Mr Godsall called, largely in vain, for quiet while the choir respectfully sang Bright Eyes from Watership Down in memory of pets who had passed on. "Not one is lost without God knowing," in-toned the reverend, just as an excitable border terrier made

an energetic grab for one of

God must have been watch-

ing, because the would-be ratcatcher missed by a whisker. Back in its cage the happy rat went for a brisk trundle in its revolving wheel to celebrate.

There was supposed to be a procession of the animals to the manger for blessing, but Mr Godsall said there were too many in the church for a procession to be possible."We will have to come to you," he said, and he and the curate toured the church flicking the animals with holy water with the aid of two feathers donated probably unwittingly — by a peacock.

The rats are scared of water," cried Adam, moving to protect them with his anorak. But the creatures got sprayed anyway, and did not seem to

Away in a Manger and. inevitably. All Things Bright and Beautiful brought the affair to a close. Keswick and Olwyn, who had barely stirred a hoof under the admiring pats of hundreds of children's hands, backed out of the church, Adam collected his cage of rats, the flea circus was packed away, and the street outside filled with dogs bursting to relieve themselves now that they were newly blessed. • For more details on animal

Health Trust, 01638 751000

Do cats need exercise? have adopted a six-yearold neutered female who has settled down well but spends all day sitting on a bench in my tiny garden, which is enclosed by a toft fence. I play with her by throwing a pingpong ball which she chases— rather slowly. I'm concerned that her life is sedentary.

A VET WRITES

A Cats need to "do their own thing", but I can't think of any species - apart from human - that takes exercise for its own sake. Your cat sounds content with her life, and the best plaything for a cat is another cat. Think about getting a kitten in the spring. A youngster about eight weeks old won't be seen as a threat by your cat-inresidence. There will be spits and spats, but once they have decided who is top cat (almost certainly the elder) things will

Our year-old miniature poodle was playing normally when he suddenly screamed and couldn't touch the ground with one of his back legs. The vet told us he had dislocated his patella (kneecap) and the only way of preventing further trouble would be an operation. What are the risks?

A There is every reason to operate. Things will not right themselves and your dog will have trouble for the rest of his life if you do nothing. There is a slight risk with any operation, but you have a young dog, so an anaesthetic should be uneventful. The kneecap is a pulley that runs in a groove at the lower end of the thigh bone (the femur). It slips out of place if the groove is too shallow, or if the femur and the tibis (the next bone down the leg) are not properly in line. There are two approaches to the operation. One aims to deepen the groove. The other is to aiter the direction in which the knee cap slides. Your vet will decide which is appropriate.

JAMES ALLCOCK Write to The Times Vet. I Pennington Street, London El 9XIV. Advice is offered without legal responsibility.

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Drink a pint of raw, unpasteurised milk a day and keep the dictatorial politicians — and their pointless proposals — at bay

the first Saturday of the new month is when this column is devoted to your letters. But you will forgive me if, this month, we instead look over the shoulder of Sir Julian Rose who is penning a letter to the Prime Minister.

Mr Blair would be well advised to read it carefully, for Sir Julian is something of an activist, and the last time a member of a government failed to take notice of him. the minister got it full in the face.

It is to do with the sale of raw, unpasteurised milk. The Government thinks this should be banned. Why it has come to this conclusion is unclear: in the four years since 1992, there were 218 cases of food poisoning (none fatal) which could be traced to raw milk. Even so, this might seem a substantial number, until you compare it with the number of cases linked to drinking pasteurised milk, which was 265. You do not have to work for Ladbroke's to decide which is the

it is ien years since the previous government set out to ban the sale of raw, "green top" milk. Mr Rose took the opportunity at the Hyde Park Food and

Sour taste of Government stances

present publicly the then minister, John McGregor, with a glass of his raw, wholesome product. Like the devil shunning garlic, Mr McGregor did not allow a drop past his lips and retired embar-rassed. Julian Rose, on the other hand, made his point and withdrew happy, like the cat who had got the (raw) cream.

If raw milk is presumed so dangerous, it is perhaps worth examining the presumably subversive farmers who produce it. Mr Rose's family have been selling raw milk from their organic herd years with never an incident of poisoning. He has just been awarded the Soil Association's prize for the Best Dairy Product for his unpasteurised cream, He

is hardly a Borgia.

There are 500 other farmers like him: mostly small family concerns which struggle to cater for a specialist market against a tide of regulation and crushing competition from price-cutting super-markets. All the raw milk producers are and required to perform to higher standards than those where pasteurisation takes place. Despite producers struggle

on to meet a small demand. The case for drinking raw milk, as

explained to me by
Mr Rose, is this: "It is whole, untreated
and fresh. We believe that pasteurisation
has negative effects on milk. There is certainly a loss of 10 per cent of vitamins

Bl, B6, and Bi2, and a 25 per cent loss of

vitamin C. And there has been research

DOWN TO EARTH



which suggests there is an upset to the proteins which might be linked to the development of heart disease. Also, raw milk is 'alive' and has a natural resistance to invadto this the fact that because it is produced on a small scale and is usually on someone's doorstep within 12 hours of milking, unlike

pasteurised milk which can be days old, a ban on its sale seems hardly justified. But the real point is that nobody is forced to drink it. It is not being passed off as anything else. The law requires that the bottle must clearly state "Raw

Unpasteurised Milk". If you think it tastes better, is better for you, and that because of the smaller scale on which it is produced you believe the cows have probably led better lives than in more intensive systems, then enjoy it. If you think it is filthy stuff, loaded with microbes, shun it. But please let us not allow governments to dictate what we can and cannot put in our mouths. Next, they will be teiling us what can and cannot come out of them.

cannot buy raw milk where I live, but would happily drink it providing I knew the farmers and could look them and their cows in the eye and decide if I trusted them. This is how most raw milk is sold: directly by honest roundsmen/farmers to loyal, contented customers. My bet would be that most of the incidents of poisoning from both raw and pasteurised milk would be from kitchen

misuse, the cat licking it or a tit dipping a soiled beak into a bottle.

Those of us who hoped that the age of pointless government were over are saddened. My only suggestion to the raw milk producers is that they play the new Government at its own game. The law states that the bottles must carry the words, "May contain organisms harmful to your health. If this reminds you of the wording on a cigarette packet, you see which way my mind is working. Raw milk producers probably can't afford to sponsor Formula One, but they should put a few bob behind the local bangerraces, or something else noisy, dangerous and polluting. There is, it seems, no

better route to rehabilitation. Postscipt: In the few days since this proposed ban was drawn to my attention, two people have told me they drank little else when children and it is the finest stuff. If you agree, or disagree, Mr Jeff Rooker is the Food Minister, and letters sent to him might be of more value than ones addressed here. This matter is urgent. Like milk, new governments can go off very quickly.

Readers' letters are welcome on countryside matters, of all kinds. Address them to: Paul Heiney. Weekend, The Times. I Pennington Street, London El 9XN: They are published on the first Saturday of the month,





Picture postcard: Cheriton Farmhouse, with thatched roof, dates from the 14th century

Farming out the family home

he day this spring when the BMW being driven by the man from the Duchy of Cornwall found its way up the dark, deep-set tunnel of a lane that leads to Cheriton Farm. the Ellises thought they might have found a solution. The Prince of Wales, they were jold, had iaken a personal interest in them and maybe. just maybe, something could

be done to help.

The Ellises — John, 79, his brother Cyril, 76, and their sister Doris, SI — have lived at the farm near Honiton in Devon all their lives. They were born there none has ever married, and, save for the four years Cyril spent in Tunisia, Italy and Austria during the last war, they have neither been separated nor travelled outside the farm's immediate

Cyril did see London once at

Tor Devon.

Rural recommendations

The place: the church of St Michael, Brent

Durimoor to the east, Cornwall to the west

perches on a for 1.100ft above sea level.

high, they are more than 3ft thick and built

How to get there: from Tavistock take the

Mourtand Visitor Centre at Princetown.

prenistoric settlements around Merrivale.

The view: a stunning panorama with

day you can see the Exmoor hills.

Aficionados: hikers and visitors

of volcanic stone from the tor.

OS ref: 471/805 on sheet 201

road towards Lydford.

The Ellises, facing retirement from their farm in Devon and an uncertain future, talk to Rohan Daft

ON THE SPOT: BRENT TOR

the end of the war, and John travelled to Dagenham in 1946 to the Ford's motor works, to see the tractors being made". but that is about it. The family and Cheriton Farm - acquired by their father in 1911 have been their entire lives.

The Prince's interest stemmed from an article about the Ellises which appeared in Country Living magazine. A local journalist had visited the family and asked them about their imminent retirement and the future of the farm - 100 acres of traditionally farmed pasture and spinney with a splendid array of wild flowers. There are no children to take it over, and the Ellises were keen

that it did not fall - like so many other small local farms into the hands of a largescale farmer who would rip out the hedgerows and turn it into one vast field.

Country Living started a campaign to save the farm and, as well as the interest shown by Prince Charles, the Country side Restoration Trust also paid a visit and expressed an interest in buying and preserving the farm. The

Ellises felt quite hopeful. The man from the Duchy told them that, should it buy the farm, they would be rehoused. That, says John, the more forthright of the brothers, was "very kind, very



broader man with a shock of grey, wind-blown hair and an easy smile, "I don't think these farms will be preserved". Doris, slightly built and the quietest of the three, concurs

with a quiet "No". Talking to the Ellises can be rather like dealing with one person; sometimes they speak in unison as though they are being conducted and they never interupt each other.

It has been some time, however, since they have heard anything from either the Duchy or the Trust. The latter is said to be still considering the idea, but so far as the Ellises are concerned, they feel they are back at square one.

We are sitting in the Ellises' large kitchen. The heat is coming from an ancient Raeburn and there is a row of caps on the wall, and one of slippers on top of the large settle in the corner. There are stone tiles on the floor and Victorian prints on the walls. The farmhouse itself is a picture postcard of red brick and thatch and dates from the 14th century.

In an attempt to stave off the attentions of unwelcome buyers and, at the same time, to lessen their own workload. they have recently sold almost half of their land to neighbours. They now have 56 acres and 20 cattle but, if the right buyer comes along, the chances are that those neighthe Ellises, would sell the land

back. It is a canny move, This is some of the best land in the country for grass land, arable land," says John. But all the small farms have gone from around here." "It belonged to a family called Flay years ago," contin-

ues Cyrii. They came here in

the 1300s. They were royalists. But farming is difficult When we were boys," says John, "and when we started farming,

other boys would come and help us. But there's no one around to help

Of course, children of their own might have helped but neither of the brothers

regrets not having married. 'No," they say, firmly, and in unison. The amount of divorces, it's terrible," says Cyril. "I never had any intention of getting married," says John. "One marriage around here lasted four months," adds Cyril. "Around here there are

very few happy marriages," concludes John, a touch

darkly.
Their accent is slightly harder and a little more hurried than the traditionally soft and soporific West Country burr. They are avid watchers of television and talk about volcanoes in Lanzarote, about how terrible it is when football

managers get sacked for losing one or two games, and about the Spice Girls, whom small Cyril thinks are "finished". For all farms their lack of direct contact with the have gone

outside world, nothing much around passes them by. They are also here' charming and welcoming and, with regard to their

time-warp farm, astonishingly practical and unsentimental. It would be ideal, says John, if someone bought the farm and preserved it as it is. But, he continues, it would be pretty much impossible for a new owner to enjoy a fairy-tale Good Life-style of existence

The only person who could

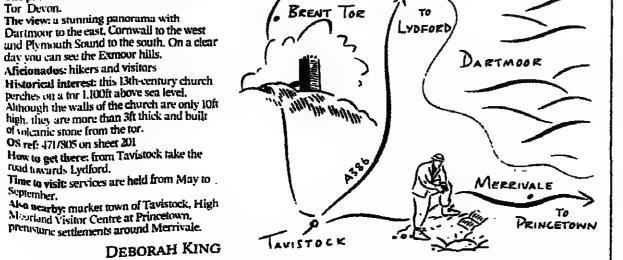
lot of money. We've got a pension and that's how we have managed to carry on. Our weekly pensions are more than what a lot of small farms make in a week. Farming used to be a way of life, now it's a business.

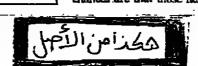
For the time being, at least, they intend to soldier on running what remains of the farm. "We'll carry on for a bit," says John. "But you can't tell from day to day. Things happen quick."

When the inevitable happens and they can no longer manage, they surprisingly say that they can imagine living apart but, unsurprisingly, will not elaborate on the possibility. Though they really do not want to leave Cheriton Farm, they realise that unless some sort of solution is found. sooner or later they are going

to have to, "Around here, when we were boys," says John, "everybody died at home. Nowadays everybody gets put in an old people's home. Young people today won't be plagued with

old people. Old people don't die in their cottages any more."





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FEATHER REPORT

Take off for airport controls

revolving screens, showing gi-

gantic eyes and falcon silhou-

ettes, that have proved to be

efficient scarers. There were

some serious accidents injur-

ing pilots in the past, but these

methods have transformed the

UK's civil airports, a steady

vigil goes on. At London's

Heathrow, one of the busiest

airports in the world, there is a

two-man special vehicle, actu-ally called "Seagull", on patrol

for 24 hours a day. The grass

on the airport is kept eight inches high, which deters birds from settling, since they cannot look out for predators

when they are deep in the

grass. If any do attempt to land, the arrival of "Seagull" is usually enough to frighten

them off, but the vehicle also

has a tape-recording of dis-tress calls, and blank shells,

which are occasionally fired.

THE CIVIL Aviation Author-

ity told me that there have

been only four bird "strikes" this year, none of them seri-

ous. The bird species were not

recorded, except for a flock of

woodpigeons which hit a

plane at Birmingham.

The Israeli Air Force takes the view that "the birds were

here before us so we must

learn to live with them". That

philosophy seems to be work-

of both bird and man.

Meanwhile, back at the

situation.

WINTER BRINGS blackheaded gulls inland. Some of the stretches of fine grassland they would love to feed on are airfields. However, the Royal Air Force has various means of scaring off gulls, and other species such as lapwings and golden plover, because a bird hitting a low-flying jet on a training mission can cause a lot of damage.

Special vehicles equipped with a loudspeaker tour RAF airfields playing recordings of the birds' alarm and distress calls. The birds take them for real, are duly alarmed and distressed, and fly away. Shell-crackers, which are like large Guy Fawkes bangers, are sometimes fired. There is also a law that landfill sites, where the rubbish attracts gulls, cannot be located within eight miles of an RAF station. These measures seem to be pretty effective.

The Israeli Air Force has a harder time. During the autumn migration, vast flocks of large birds, drawn from all over Europe and Asia, pass through the narrow channel of Israeli air space on their way to southern Africa.

I have just watched a spectacular video, Flying With The Birds, made by Benaya Bin-Nun for the Israeli Society for the Protection of Nature. It shows the hazards that jets have to face there, such as the 140,000 lesser spotted eagles that fly past in the course of an autumn, and the white storks rising in their thousands on thermals, or warm upcurrents of air, then gliding on south, slowly dropping, till they meet another thermal.

The film also shows how well Israel has coped with saving both the aircraft and the birds. Ornithologists, sometimes flying among the birds in motorised gliders. have recorded the dates when different species normally fly by, the height at which they fly, their speed, and any other data that can enable the air force to plan its training flights and avoid them.

On the ground they use

DERWENT MAY ● The video Flying With the Birds is available for US\$10 from the Israeli Ornithological Centre, SPNI, Herzi 155, Tel Aviv 68101 [00 972 3 6826802] Feather Reports, a chronicle of

a year's bird life by Dervent May based on his Times articles and illustrated by Robin Jacques, is published by Robson Books at ● What's about: Birders - Watch

for siskins in birches and alders. Twitchers — bufflehead at Heveningham, Suffolk; desert Heveningham, Suffolk, desert wheatear at Hannafore Point, Cornwall; canvasback at Welney, Calls and 40p a minute champ rate, 50p at other times.



Gulls are a hazard to flights around airports

Screen debut for a high flyer

Gareth Huw Davies describes how one of

the world's largest

and rarest eagles was

trained for TV

tephen Ford had spent six weeks training Kali, a Philippine eagle, for a starring role in a BBC wildlife film and the moment had come to release her for her first free flight into the tropical

rainforest. But there was one nagging

doubt in his mind. Would she ever

come back?

All his long experience in training raptors suggested that she would drawn to the certain supply of food she associated with her handler. But there was the small risk she might prefer the forest's ready supply of small monkeys, her natural food in

the wild, and might never return.

The reason for Mr Ford's nerves was that Kali is one of the world's rarest birds of prey — there are just 19 in captivity and perhaps a few hundred left in the wild. As the property of the Philippines Government, she was an important state asset. Her loss would have threat-ened the jobs of the Government employees who had helped him, embarrassed the BBC and compromised Mr Ford's reputation as a bird trainer of international standing.

So he decided to make the inaugural flight - until then Kali had been tethered by a 50-yard line - in secret. The locals were so terrified I would lose Kali that I took the precaution of hiding a small radio transmitter under her tail so we could have found her again in the forest. In the event, it wasn't needed. She came back to me."

ing, fortunately, to the benefit Kali flying free through the forest provides the opening sequence of Wildlife Special: Eagle, narrated by David Attenborough (Wednesday, December 17). BBC cameraman Michael Richards knows he would never have been able to obtain such shots with a genuinely wild bird. There is always foliage six feet in front of you. All you can do is sit at the side of a valley and hope one comes flying by."

> r Ford has been training birds of prey since he was 12. He grew up in Devon, and developed his passion for raptors when his parents took him to a pageant. He left school for the unlikely dual calling of head falconer at a local raptor centre and professional stunt man.

He bought his first bird of prey, a hawk eagle, out of the £10 fee he earned for falling off horses at medieval pageants. With his wife Emma he set up the British School of Falconry. In 1992 the Fords moved their school into the Gleneagles Hotel in Scotland, where they run courses and hunting trips for guests.

Mr Ford's commission to train a

Philippine eagle was one of his piggest challenges yet. "It had never been done before to this level. There was nobody's experience to go on."
When he arrived at the Centre for Philippine Raptors at Los Banios, south of Manila, even he was astonished by the bird's size. It stands 3ft tall, weighs 6.5kg and at 7ft has the

largest wings of any eagle.

For the first week he did nothing but observe the two possible candidates in their cages. Eventually he



rejected one as too aggressive and territorial and chose Kali, trapping her in a large butterfly net.

His first target was to induce her to stand on his fist. ("These birds would rather hang upside down like demented chickens and bite large chunks out of you.") He had a sleeve made of quarter-inch reinforced leather from his wrist to his shoulder. But high in the mountains in 94 per cent humidity he found he could work for only 20 minutes at a time. So it was two weeks before he made his first contact with the bird and began to bring her under control. When she finally landed on his fist, her talons felt like nails. Although they did not pierce the leather, they left his hand

severely bruised. A bird of prey is controlled through its stomach. At six and a half kilos Kali was contentedly, and lazily, overweight. Ford had to trim two kilos off her before she was in hunting shape, and hungry enough

to need to take to the air. When she reached her optimum weight he let her fly on a long lead over a football field, where she showed undue interest in the stray dogs.

As soon as Kali could fly free, and unencumbered with anything to remind viewers she was not totally wild, filming began. Over six days Mr Richards obtained his entire checklist of sequences, including unique shots of this species on the wing in the forest, and terrifying

HOW DO you capture wildlife on film? BBC cameraman Michael Richards has the

When photographing eagles, familiarise the bird to the idea of the camera by placing a hottle with its bottom facing the nest during your

■ When filming gorillas, don't look them in the eye - they see it as a threat.

Never film nesting birds in bad weather. If your presence keeps a mother bird from the nest the nestling may die of wet or cold.

Loud dressing frightens wildlife. Wear warm and silent clothing - preferably wool and cotton, and nothing rustly or

■ Develop the ability to remain silent and motionless for hours - take a folding seat. Wildlife subjects will come much cluser to you.

■ Use a hide, Introduce it over stages or walk it in slowly towards the subject. Watch from afar to make sure it is

Bring a second person to the hide and have him or her walk away conspicuously. Most birds (except crows) can't count, and will assume the hide is empty.

Most animals, including birds, can smell, so don't wear strong perfume or after-shave. Even the smell of a cigar smoked the night before can

Never annoy or aggravate your subject; some, such as an elephant or black rhino, could kill you.

■ Don't disturb your subject for dramatic effect, such as causing a flock of birds to fly.

■ Learn to read the sounds of nature: they give clues to what's happening. For example, small birds may be agitated because a sparrowhawk is about

approaches to the camera as if

calmer and will be easier to handle in

a captive breeding programme de-

signed to restore this severely deplet-

ed bird to the wild. At seven years old

she may have 50 years of life ahead of

her, with considerable breeding po-

tential. The tracedy is that so much of

the forest habitat in which her

reintroduced offspring would have

been able to hunt has been destroyed.

Kali is now back in her cage. She is

coming in for the kill.

Deborah King offers hints to warm hedgehogs' hearts and help them survive hibernation

Preparing for the long sleep

edgehogs might need your help as the cold weather closes in. During the next four months their body temperatures will drop below freezing and their hearts manage just five beats a minute as they hibernate. If they are healthy and well fed, their chances of surviving the winter are good, but with the hard ground caused by a dry summer, many could find the going tough.

Anne Jenkins of the British Hedge-

hog Preservation Society says: "It was incredibly hot last Easter, reaching almost 80 degrees. This encouraged them to emerge from hibernation and breed — but a few weeks later there were widespread frosts and many of the litters died." Although exact figures are difficult to estimate, Ms Jenkins reckons there are nearly two million hedgehogs in Britain. "And I have little doubt their numbers have dropped

dramatically," she says.

The hedgehog's normal diet consists of slugs and worms. But this summer's parched earth has forced them to make do with beetles and scraps of food. To sustain them during hibernation the animals should weigh at least 500 grammes but Ms Jenkins has already seen a large number of starving hedgehogs, and autopies performed on those that did not survive last year's hibernation have revealed a lack of vital fat reserves.

The simplest way to help them is to feed them and help them keep warm. Conservationist Dr David Bellamy helps the hedgehogs in his garden in County Durham. "I always check the bonfires before lighting them to ensure no hedgehogs are present," he says.
"And I leave deep piles of dead leaves in sheltered corners for them to build a nest." Hedgehogs can, perhaps amazingly given their lack of speed, travel two miles each day in search of food. They often build more than one nest, so

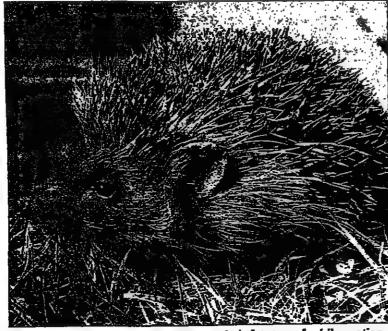


David Bellamy: piles up leaves

the raw materials for the nest are as important as their food supply. Hedgehogs love overgrown areas,

and it helps to keep a well-watered patch of grass in the garden to encourage worms and provide a natural food supply. Leaving a tray, similar to the transparent ones from supermarkets, outside the house also helps protect the food; cutting a small hole in the side and placing it over the food weighed down with a brick is an effective way of stopping opportunistic

cats from moving in. But what do you feed them? Ms Jenkins suggests one treat. They love to crunch on something, so an old chicken carcass is ideal." She also recommends placing a length of plastic pipe with a diameter of five inches in a rockery to help keep the food safe from



Build up: hedgehogs need to increase their fat stores for hibernation

HEDGEHOG FOOD

MEASURE half a cup of the following and bind with a tablespoon of peanut oil: dried fruit (such as raisins, sultanas, currants)

 dried insects chopped peanuts a mixture of bran flakes. muesli and digestive biscuits.

other animals. It can be easily disguised under soil and plants, where edgehogs can find it. Hedgehogs will eat almost anything — including pasta and tinned cat

food. Mavis Righini, who runs a hedgehog rescue centre in Bromley, Kent, says many of her 32 animals are particularly fond of chicken-flavoured cat food. Ms Jenkins, however, has a recipe to

FACT FILE

■ Hedgehogs have existed for 15 million years. The average litter size is six.

British variety is known as Erinaceus europaeus.

There are more than a dozen other varieties in the world. ■ Mongolian hedgehogs have

■ A minimum weight of 500g is necessary to survive the winter. Average lifespan is three to four years.

■ There are about 500 rescue centres in Britain.

bran flakes, dried insects (available from most pet shops; and chopped nuts. The benefits are two-fold, for the remains can be finished off by the birds the next morning.

■ British Hedgehog Preservation Society delight even the most discerning hedgehog: a mixture of dried fruit,

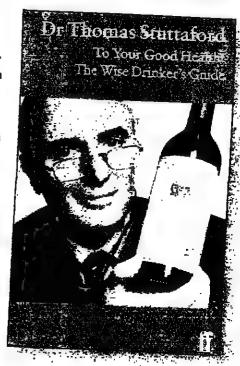
THE SEE TIMES

To Your Good Health! Drinker's Guide only £7.99 inc p&p

known as The Times medical columnist, with more than a million readers turning to him daily for advice on the latest medical matters. In this book he sets out a balanced view on drinking and health. The key message is that, taken in moderation. alcohol is good for you. Taken to excess it can be disastrous.

Dr Stuttaford proceeds through history to the latest research and draws on many case studies. What emerges is fascinating. Alcohol, he argues, helps to prevent strokes. lessens the likelihood of late-onset diabetes, acts as an anti-oxidant and improves the sperm count. It even has a beneficial effect on the intellect. especially amongst the elderly.

Orders must be received by December 12, 1997 to guarantee delivery before Christmas.



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CHANGING TIMES

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ABTA V321X

Why I want to marry you

n February. I. a Roman Catholic of sorts. am getting married to an Anglican of sorts. Her father candidly admits that some of her Ulster forebears will be turning in their graves. but my future in-laws are welcoming me with open arms, even if the price is forking out for champagne and nibbles for a family that comes in batches of ten. and submitting to a thoroughly Papist do. But how does the Catholic Church view "mixed" marriages? And what can it offer in the way of preparation for an institution that can seem depressingly jaded to couples who are not necessarily innocence personified?

As everybody knows, the Catholic Church takes a strong line on marriage and emphasises its indissolubility. But in recent years it has had to face up to the fact that almost the same proportion of marriages conducted under its auspices are failing, as in

One of the ways it increasingly seeks to tackle this problem is through insisting that couples intending to marry in an RC church attend one of its pre-nuptial preparation courses. These are replacing the old system, where couples would have a few preparatory sessions with the priest booked

to tie their knot The disadvantages of the earlier approach, chiefly the fact that a celibate clergyman was a priori not going to be a great practitioner of what he preached, are removed by the courses being conducted by fully trained (and married) lay couples. The course we were signed up to, behind West-

liver James's recent book Britain on the Couch tells a

depressing story. Quite sim-

ply, we have become more depressed.

Twenty-five-year-olds today are be-

tween three and ten times more likely

than their parents to have suffered some form of depressive illness. We

have become, in his phrase, a "low serotonin society", serotonin being

the chemical register in the brain of

medical attention. James's book.

though, raises a larger question. Can

our culture that has given rise to this

sudden increase? Admittedly, it will

Depressive illness requires serious

general states of well-being.

Catholic, and his Anglican fiancée

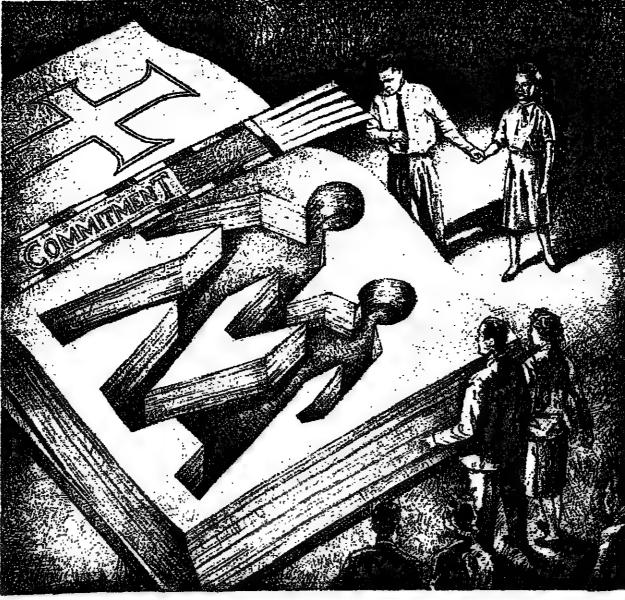
attend a novel pre-nuptial course

minster Cathedral and therefore near the epicentre of Eng-lish Catholicism, promised to he a good gauge of the new

Our first impression of the gathering of about 30 fiancele)s was that the whole affair was rather "couply". Every-where people were cooing and holding hands. The net effect was a friendly and curiously chaste atmosphere, enhanced Rosie and Martyn, who were conducting proceedings. It was a great comfort to the "mixed" couples (who account for two-thirds of those attending the Westminster courses) to find that she was a committed Catholic and he was equally committed to the C of E

Presiding over the week-

end" (Friday evening and Saturday afternoon) was Father Tim Dean. He was on hand to spiritual and bureaucratic advice (marriage involves a fair amount of paperwork), and to close the sessions with readings from the New Testament - his interpretation of Jesus changing water into wine at the marriage at Cana as proof of the Church's duty to provide practical help at a wedding was particularly well received. Although there was relatively little mention of God, everyone seemed to be approaching



serious manner. When I asked the course leaders what they believed the weekend was for. they gave different but complementary emphases.

or Rosie and Martyn it was "a chance to reflect about the serious step you are taking and to tackle the three Cs: "communication, conflict resoand commitment". Father Tim, as befits his job. summed it up thus: "What we are trying to do is get people to answer the question: Why are we getting married in church

The format for the weekend turned out to be introductions to an exercise, followed by the couples dispersing to carry it out, followed by whole group discussions. The exercises took two main forms. The first centred around a magic pen. which conferred on the partner holding it the exclusive right to talk until it was

handed over. This device ensured both partners had an extended crack at talking and listening, while an important topic was covered that might otherwise be avoided.

The second exercise involved both partners filling in

judged my partner's arritude towards my underwear. ticked the column that applied to them, and tried to guess We emerged exhausted by

the emotional charge of it all, but full of gratitude for having been made to bare our souls on important matters. There was a sense that most of the important topics had been covered (children, money, sex, division of labour), and we had certainly got more of an idea of what would be necessary to make our union work.

The Catholic Church deserves great credit for organising it, even if I am now committed to doing half the washing-up until death us do

Always a new door to open



Ruth Gledhill hears the Moderator of the Church of Scotland

THE FIRST challenge facing any pilgrim in search of the Crown Court Church of Scotland is to find it. The church stands in the heart of London's theatreland but even St Ninian, travelling to Whithorn to build Scotland's first stone church in 397, would surely have been daunted by this

particular one-way system. The Church of Scotland is spiritually independent, being a national church which is both endowed and free, and Crown Court, as it is known, is the longest established Presbyterian

church south of the border. Every year, the general assembly of the Church of Scotland elects a new Moderator, the highest bonour that can be bestowed on a minister, and this year it was the turn of the Right Rev Sandy McDonald. In rank and precedence, the Moderator comes next to the Lord Chancellor, and before the Prime Minister.

During St Andrew's-tide, it is the tradition for the Moderator to visit London for an official wur, meeting the Prime Minister, the Lord Mayor of London, the Lord Chancellor and visit-ing the Houses of Parliament, as well as going to Borderline, the church's London centre for homeless Scots. We were at Crown Court, which takes its name both from its site and from the Union of Crowns in 1603, to hear him preach.

The church, which has a congregation of 300-plus. filled to capacity during the organ voluntary, worshippers including tiny children and the elderly. After some hymns, two lessons and an anthem, the Moderator addressed us. He acknowledged the important mission of this church in London: "The church offers an open door, not just to Scots but to all kinds of

people who find themselves

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★ MINISTER: The Rev Stanley ARCHITECTURE: Built 1909 to replace church from 1719.

SERMON: Helpfully instructive.

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coming to the heart of London. To see the Fortune Theatre on one side and Drury Lane can the other reminds me that the church needs to be involved with people at every level of experience and in every circumstance in which they find themselves." He spoke on the symbol-

ism of doors, which can be barriers or openings to new life. "Despair may reach us if we get to the point where we feel from the depths of our being that there are no new doors to open in life," he said. "But I feel there is not a day that passes but a new door opens."

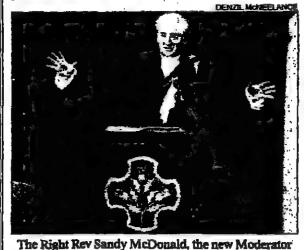
He spoke also of the virtue of being able to be flexible about personal opinion: "If you can't change your mind, you are like stagnant water and breeds all kinds of dangerous diseases and troubles.

Britain is commemorating the anniversary of St Columba, who died in 597 and who evangelised Scotland from lone, along with St Augustine, who landed on the shores of Kent in the same year. The church's font is said to be carved from the last marble ever quarried on Iona.

● The Church of Scotland. Crown Court, London WC2B SEZ (U)71-836 5643.

Roban 10.25

 $\Phi_{4p,j}$



Banish the blues and give thanks for what you have

our television screens and newspapers are images of perfection, people who are

not explain individual cases, only trends. But the question is real and more beautiful or thin or ciever or attractive than we will ever has a long history. Just as there can be a physically unhealthy society, so be. Ours is a culture of artificially there can be a psychologically uncreated longings. We are invited to resolve the tension by buying this. or James argues that part of the wearing that, or going there. Unhappiness is good for business. It just

blame lies with the chaos of intimate relationships and the breakdown of happens to be bad for people. At this stage, the religious believer the stable, two-parent family. No less important, though, are the kinds of wants to protest that it need not be

mercial, competitive society.
"Advanced capitalism," he says bluntly. "makes money out of misery and dissatisfaction." **JONATHAN**



like this at all. It is not a matter of opposing capitalism and all its

works. It has made possible much of what makes life more dignified for more people than ever before. Economic growth and technical progress have allowed us to treat disease, conquer absolute poverty, and extend the

how their other half would

respond to the same question.

This was an enjoyable way of

checking the understanding

within the partnership and

revealing how each viewed the

On the whole, we came out like Darby and Joan, although

there were anxious moments

when radically different reactions emerged to statements

like "I think the housework

and shopping should be joint

rasks", or when notes were

compared on the subject of

The average supermarket shopper today has a range of choice that, a century ago, would have been beyond the nothing wrong in celebrating the achievements of advanced societies.

But there is one spiritual discipline religion once gave us and that we still need. It is the simple act of saying "thank you" to God. There are prayers in which we ask God for the things we do not have. But there are others in which we simply thank God for the things we have: family, friends, life itself with its counterpoint of pleasure and pain, the sheer

here. Gratitude, the acknowledgement that what we have is a gift, is one of the most profound religious emotions. It is to the mind what serotonin is to the brain. To thank God is to know that I do

exaltation of knowing that we are

not have less because my neighbour has more. I am not less worthwhile because someone else is more successful. Through prayer, I know that I am valued for what I am. I learn to cherish what I have, rather than be diminished by what I have not. A third-century rabbi, Ben Zoma, put it simply. "Who is rich?" he asked. Not one who has much, but "one who rejoices in what he has".

There is no single route to happiness, just as there is no single cure for depression. But the daily discipline of thanking God for what we are and what we enjoy is the most ancient form of what is today called "cognitive therapy". Making a blessing over life is the best way of turning life into a blessing.

■ Jonathan Sachs is the chief rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations

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--- CHANGING TIMES

Church services for tomorrow

The second Sunday of Advent ARMAGH CATHEDRAL: 10 HC; II Ch E, Darke in F, Rev W J Dawson; 3.15 Ch E. BELFAST CATHEDRAL: 10 HC: 11 S Euch: 3.30 Ch E, Noble in B minor. BIRMINGHAM CATHEDRAL: 9 MP. 9.15 HC: II Ch Euch, 4 Ch E. Watson in E: 5_30 Asian Christians' Service. BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.15 Ch M: 10.30 Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 4 Ch E. Canon Hall.

BRECON CATHEDRAL: 8, II Euch. The Brecon Mass (Philip Moore); 3.30 E. BRISTOL CATHEDRAL: 7.40 M; 8 HC; 10 Ch Euch, Canon J Simpson; 3.30 Ch E. Second Service (Leighton)

CANTERBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.30 M: 11 S Euch. Mass for 5 voices (Byrd); 3.15 E: 6.30 Sermon & Compline. CARLISLE CATHEDRAL: 7.45 M: 8 HC; 10.30 S Euch; 3 E. Dyson in F. CHELMSFORD CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP. 8 HC; 9.30 Euch & Parade; II.15 S Euch; 3 Willow Tree Carol Service; 6 Ch E.

CHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 Family Euch: 11.30 M; Jubilate in E flat minor (Howells); 3.30 E; 6.30 ES, The Dean. CHICHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Harris in A; II S Euch: 3.30 E. CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL, Dublin: [1] S Euch, Mass in G (Schubert): CHRIST CHURCH CATHEDRAL Ox-

ford: 8 HC; 10 M & Sermon, Canon O'Donovan: 11.15 S Euch; 6 E. CORK CATHEDRAL: 8 Euch; 11.15 S Euch, Collegium Regale (Howells), Very Rev R Jeffrey, 7 Ch E. COVENTRY CATHEDRAL: 7.40 MP: 8 C; 10.30 Euch, Stanford in C & F: 5 Ch E. DERBY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.45 S

Euch. French Mass (Shepherd): 3 The Christingle Service: 6 Ch E.
DURHAM CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 M. Stanford in B flat; 11.15 HC, Canon S Pedley; 3.30 E, Second Service (Gibbons). ELY CATHEDRAL: 8.15 HC: 10.30 S Euch, Missa Solemnis (Mozart); 3.45 E.
EXETER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 S
Euch, Canon D Ison; 11.15 M; 3 E.
Collegium Regale (Wood); 6.30 ES.

GLOUCESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.15 Euch: 12.15 HC: 3 E, Wood in F. **GUILDFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45** S Euch; 11.30 M: 4 British Airways Carol Service: 6.30 E. Sumsion in G. HEREFORD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10 Euch; 11.30 M, Jackson in G; 3.30 E. LEICESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 M; 10.30 Euch: 4 Ch E. Murrill in E. LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 10.30

LINCOLN CATHEDRAL: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC; 9.30 S Euch; 11.15 M; 12.30 HC; 3.45 E, Stanford in C; 5.30 Carols in the Nave. LIVERPOOL CATHEDRAL: 8 MP & HC: 10.30 Euch; 3 Ch E. 4 HC. LLANDAFF CATHEDRAL: B. 9 HC; II S Euch, Jackson in G: 12.15 HC: 3.30, 6 E. MANCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8.45 M;

Carol Service; 6.30 E: 8 Lighting of the tree at St Anne's Hospice. NEWCASTLE CATHEDRAL: 7.30 M: 8 HC: 9.30 S Euch, Canon I Bennett: 6 Ch E. NEWPORT CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10.30 Family Euch; 6.30 Ch E, Dyson in F. NORWICH CATHEDRAL: 7.30 MP; 8,

Service (Howells): 7 School Carol Service. PETERBOROUGH CATHEDRAL: 9,30 M; 10.30 Euch, Canon P Woodward; 3,30 E. The Fourth Service (Batten). PORTSMOUTH CATHEDRAL 8 HC 9.30 C; 11 S Euch, Missa Brevis (Berkeley); 6.30 E, Archdeacon of Portsmouth. ROCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.45 M. Ferguson in C: 10.30 S Euch; 3.15 E. SALISBURY CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10

Euch; 11.30 M, Harris in A, Canon P SHEFFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 10 MP: 10.30 S Euch: 6.30 E & Sermon. SOUTHWARK CATHEDRAL: 9 Euch: II Ch Euch: 3 Ch E, Sumsion in G. SOUTHWELL MINSTER: 7.45 Litany; 8 HC: 9.30 C: 11 M; 3.15 Christingle Service; 4.30 E: 5.45 Compline.

TRURO CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9 M: 10 S Euch, Messe Solennelle (Vierne); 3 St John Ambulance Service: 6 E. WAKEFIELD CATHEDRAL: 8 HC; 9.15 C: II Solemn Euch, Jackson in G: 4 E. WELLS CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 9.45 S Euch; II.30 M; 3 E. Bairstow in D. Rev J H Parfitt; 6 Carol Service. WESTMINSTER ABBEY: 8 HC: 10 M:

ILIS Euch; 3 E. Purcell in G minor; 5.45 Recital by Maria Vocalis: 6.30 ES. WESTMINSTER CATHEDRAL: 7, 8, 9 Organ Recital; 3.30 Solemn V, Magnificat octavi toni (Victoria); 5.30, 7 Mass. WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: 10 M: 11.15 S Euch; 3.30 E, Third Service (Byrd). YORK MINSTER: 7.30 M; 8, 8.45 HC; 10

S Euch; Missa Brevis (Leighton): 11.30 S Euch; 2 St John Ambulance Carol Service; 4 E; 7.30 Festival Concert. ST ALBAN'S CATHEDRAL Hertfordshire: 8 HC; 9.30 Euch: 11 M: 12.15 HC; 3.30 Christingle Service; 6.30 E. ST ASAPH CATHEDRAL, Clwyd: 8 HC; II Ch Euch. Rev K Goulstone; 3.30 Ch E.

ST DAVIDS CATHEDRAL 8 HC: 9.30 Cymun Bendigaid; II.IS Ch M, Noble in B minor; 6 Ch E, The Dean. ST GEORGE'S CATHEDRAL Southwark: 8, 10 LM; 11.30 Soleran Mass, Mass

for 4 voices (Byrd); 6 LM. ST GILES CATHEDRAL Edinburgh: 8 MS; 10 HC, Mass in G minor (Vaughan Williams); 11.30 MS; 6 Organ Recital; 8 ES. ST MACHAR'S CATHEDRAL, Old Aberdeen: II MS, Rev R Frazer; 6 HC. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Edinburgh: 8 Euch; 10.30 S Euch; 3.30 Ch E; Sexti toni

(Victoria): 6.30 Sung Compline. ST MARY'S CATHEDRAL, Glasgow: 8.30 Euch; 10 S Euch; 12 HC; 6.30 Ch E. ST PATRICK'S CATHEDRAL, Dublin: 8.30 Euch; II.15 S Euch, 5 part Mass (Byrd); 3.15 Ch E, Rev D Williams.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRAL: 8 HC: 8.45 M; II S Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestrina); 3.15 E, Gray in F minor, Rev P King. RUSSIAN ORTHODOX CATHE-DRAL, SWI: 10.30 Divine Liturgy, Kievan and traditional polophony, Met Anthony. ALL SAINTS, WI: 8 LM; 10.20 MP; 11 HM; 5.15 LM; 6 E & B. ALL SOULS, W1: 8 C; 9.30, 11.30 MP. Rev

Rice: 6,30 Carol Service. THE ASSUMPTION, WI: II MS, Missa CHELSEA OLD CHURCH, SW3: 8 HC; 10 Children's Service; Il C. Rev P Elvy; 6 E.

FARM STREET, WI: 8, 9.30 LM; II HM; 12-30 LM; 4.15 Mass; 6.15 LM. HOLY TRINITY BROMPTON, SW7: 9 HC; 11 MS, 5, 7.30 Informal Service. THE ORATORY, SW7: 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 Mass,

Missa Dixit Joseph (Lassus); 12.30 Mass: 3.30 V & B; 4.30, 7 Mass. ARMENIAN APOSTOLIC CHURCH W8: 11 Holy Mass, Archbishop Y Gizirian. WESLEY'S CHAPEL, EC2: II MS & HC for Bible Sunday, Rev Dr L Griffiths.
WESTMINSTER CENTRAL HALL
(Methodist): 11 HC; 6:30 Evening Praise.

Rev Dr P Graves. ST ANNE AND ST AGNES (Lutheran). Gresham St, EC2: II Ch Euch, Rev P D Schmiege, 2 Swahili HC; 7 Luther's German Mass.

ST BARTHOLOMEW THE GREAT. ECI: 9 HC; 11 Ch Euch. Missa Bell-amfurir altera (Lassus). The Rector: 6.30 Advent music & readings. ST BRIDE'S, EC4: II Ch M & Euch,

Robinson in C. Canon J Oates; 6,30 Ch E. ST CLEMENT DANES, WC2: 11 Ch Euch, Missa Aeterna Christi Munera (Palestriria). Rev D Mackenzie.

ST COLUMBA'S CHURCH OF SCOT-LAND, SWI: II, Rev J H McIndoe; 630 Rev W A Cairns.

ST ETHELDREDA'S, ECI: !! Sung Mass. Missa Trahe me post te (Victoria). ST GEORGE'S, WI: 830 HC; II S Euch. Missa Brevis (Berkeley). ST JAMES'S, Garlickhythe, EC4: 10.30.S

Euch, St James' Choir, Rev J Paul. ST JAMES'S, WZ: 10.30 S Euch, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd), Rev B Wilson; 6 Ch E. ST JAMES'S, WI: 8.30 HC: II S Euch; Rev M Robbins: 5.45 E.P. ST JOHN'S, Els: II HC, Prelude & Fugue

in E minor (Bach): 6.30 EP.
ST LUKE'S, SW3: 8 HC: 10.30 S Euch,
Adoramus te (Palestrina): 12.15 HC: 6.30 E. Rev C Kevill-Davies. ST MARK'S, NWI: 8 HC; 9.45 Family C; II S Euch, Rev T Devonshire-Jones, ST MARGARETS, SWI: 11 S Euch &

Baptism, Missa aeterna Christie munera (Palestrina), Canon D Gray. ST MARTIN-IN-THE-FIELDS. WCZ-8 HC: 9.45 Euch: 11.30 Visitors' Service: 2.45 Chinese Service in the crypt: 3 Salvation Army Carol Service: 5.30 Blessing of the crib in Trafalgar Square: 6.30 ES.

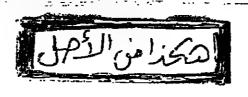
ST MARY ABBOTS CHURCH, WS-8 HC: 9.30 Euch, Fr M Fuller; II.15 Ch M, Fr F Gelli: 12.30 HC: 6.30 E. ST MARY'S, SWI: 9, 10 LM; 11 HM, Mass for 4 voices (Byrd); 6 Solemn E & B; 7 LM. ST MARY-THE-VIRGIN, NW3: 8 HC: 10.30 Euch, Short Service (Batten); 6 EP. ST MARYLEBONE, NWI: 8 HC: 11 Ch

SI MARYLEBONE, NWI: 8 HC: 11 Ch Euch, Missa Brevis (Palestria); 6:30 Healing Service, Rev J Caldwell, ST PETER'S, SWI: 8.15 HC: 10 Family Euch; II S Euch, Missa Canonica (Brahms), Fr D B Tillyer. CHAPEL ROYAL OF ST PETER AD VINCUIA, HM Trayer of London; 9:15 VINCUIA, HM Tower of London: 9.15 HC: II M & Sermon, Rev P R C Abram: 7 Residents Informal Service.

CHAPEL ROYAL St James's Palace 8.30 HC; II.15 S Euch, Darke in E. Canon L F

GROSVENOR CHAPEL South Andley St. WI: 11 S Euch. Missa O magnum mysterium (Victoria), Bishop of Iceland. QUEEN'S CHAPEL OF THE SAVOY. WC2 II S Euch, The Chaplain. GRAYS INN CHAPEL, WCI: ILIS S

THE TEMPLE CHURCH, EC4: 830 HC; ILIS MP, Stanford in C. The Master. GUARDS CHAPEL, Wellington Barracks, SWI: II Ch HC, Stravinsky Mass. Band of the Blues and Royals. ROYAL NAVAL COLLEGE CHAPEL SEIO: 11 S Euch, Casciolini, Rev R Nurron.



The latest reaction of the nanny state to forbid the sale of beef on the bone should be resisted by all sensible citizens, says Gerald Long

uccessive British governments care nothing for symbols: otherwise they would not have destroyed one of the great institutions that for centuries has symbolised the attachment of the English, in particular, to solid good quality and simple good living: the Roast Beef of Old England.

In the 18th century it was already an article of faith. Hogarth's famous caricature of the Calais Gate shows a great piece of beef destined for local English consumption being carried past pop-eyed Frenchmen, thin as rakes. In the mid-19th oentury. Thackeray invited his readers to imagine 100,000 Frenchmen fed on soup, turnips, carrots, onions and cheese fighting the same number of

Englishmen who had just dined off beef. The mishandling of the BSE crisis from the beginning had already undermined this culinary confidence the Government order that all beef must be boned has given it the coup de grace. The reaction among our European partners will inevitably be that the British have once again taken leave of their senses. They have watched in disbelief as we were first told not to eat soft-boiled eggs

aking a meal out of marrow

or mayonnaise, then as we alternately published every scare story about the dangers of beef-eating while proclaiming insistently that British beef was not only the best in the world but also the safest. I heard a Government spokesman say this week that the boning order would

increase confidence in British beef. If he

believes that, he will believe anything. It seems to me that the sensible course throughout this whole miserable affair would have been to publish the various so-called expert reports, which often con-tradict one another, soberly and without undue emphasis, and let us decide what

But now the nanny state has followed its convictions and told us that it knows what is good for us,

This goes too far: people are not so stupid nor so easily led as their political masters believe. I hope for a nationwide bone rebellion to demonstrate the good sense and robust energy of the British,

and especially the English, and to disthe irresolute, limp-wristed impression presented to the nation and the world by politicians who regard leading-reins as the instrument to guide Britain to a

new dawn. It was a relief to hear the Smithfield porters say they had been given no instructions and would continue to deliver meat on the bone: if it

had to be boned, let the butchers hone it. J. suppose it is too much to hope that the butchers will provide beef on the bone to those who ask for it. But what do they risk by so doing? Are we to have boning squads, flying filleters making the

rounds of butchers' shops? What penalties will be applied to bone dealers? Will

Simpson's-in-the Strand and the Savoy Grill tamely give up the spectacular ribroasts that have made their reputation? If the boning order is ignored for the nonsense it is, the Government will shrink before the draconian measures that would be needed to enforce it.

There was an extremely nervous reaction in France at the time of the first BSE scare and beef consumption dropped. This despite there being very little BSE reported in France and its policy of slaughtering the whole herd in

which cases occurred. There were renorts in the press that calf's head, the favourite dish of President Chirac, would be banned, along with oxtail, lamb's brains. sweetbreads and offal generally. The price of calves' liver, regarded as a precious food for invalids and children. plummeted. I must confess I was depressed by these reports. But within a formight calf's head was back on restaurant menus, together with all the

other reputedly dangerous foods. There is a difference between Government advice on a healthy diet and the first step on the road to control of our shopping, our kitchens, our dinnerates. It is true that red meat is not the healthiest food and it may well be that the vegetarians are right, morally and practically, but these are matters about which we must all be allowed to make up our own minds.

We did not have to wait for the latest expert" report to know that there are

dangers in grills and roasts. Harold McGee, in his monumental work On Food and Cooking, writes: "... the browning reactions that make fried and roasted food so appealing also generate compounds that have mutagenic and carcinogenic activity". Meats grilled over charcoal are reported to be especially dangerous in this regard, but the reports have not, as far as I know, caused the Americans to give up their barbecues.

ou might think it matters little whether beef is boned or not, but in fact the absence or presence of bone has an important effect on cooking. Boned beef, usually tied up and thus compacted, loses the juices that come from the bone and add flavour: it takes longer to cook and has a tendency to dry

According to Henry Thoreau, "it is life near the bone where it is sweetest". Europe is waiting to see whether the British will give up this sweemess simply at the behest of a minister, or whether we will rally to the support of that roast meat which is universally acknowledged to be the glory of our cuisine.

h my, it must be an ormer

Strictly legal: Rohan Daft (second left) finds an ormer in Jersey. Catches are usually kept for the fisherman and his family. The ormer is protected by rigorous laws stipulating how and when it can be fished

Rohan Daft follows

∮ì

the trail of ultra-rare shellfish from the Jersey shores to

London's Chinatown

ersey, the most southerly and largest of the Channel Islands, and rightly renowned for its new potatoes, milk, cream and easy, tax-free living, is also the home of the ormer. This mysterious, earshaped shellfish, a smaller cousin of the abalone, is extremely care and unterly delicious. It is also protected by rigorous laws saying how and when it can be fished, and is a source

of much pride among the islanders. By the time the precious shellfish reach the restaurants of London's Chinatown, having passed through a cleak-and-dagger world of anony-mous telephone tip-offs, speedboat chases, new moons, coded asides in harbourside bars and large amounts of hard cash, they also represent perhaps the strangest contraband that is slipping past Customs and Excise and on to the mainland.

To find an ormer is not easy. Traditionally and legally, they are the prey of low-water (ishermen, for the most part local amateurs who pluck them from the rocks at low tide. This practice is still known locally as going down the tide", and finding a dozen or so of the things in one go would, to most, be deemed a triumph and a more than ample "feed".

Come the March and September equinoxes and the lowest tides, a florilla of small boats will set out for the then exposed Minquiers, the massive reef that lies ten miles south of the island. For any Jerseyman with a taste for ormers the Minouiers is a place of legend. The catches can be memorable

"I had 322 there once," remembers Guinea Channing, 76, a bluff old lisherman who I met in a pub by the French Harbour. For a low-water fisherman that would still be an extraordinary haul. But for the other Ormer gatherers, the illegal ones, it is not, as Mr Channing whispered to me over a sticky little table studded with pints of lager and a shots of whisky.

I made my way, studying every restaurant menu I saw, to the fishmarket on Beresford Street. The demand for ormers is not immediately obvious in Jersey because most lev-water fishermen keen their catches for themselves or give them to Irrend-Pand family. Because of this,

low-water fishing and they've got 50 ormers that they want to sell, I'll take them," one fishmonger said. "If they're at least the legal size [a minimum of 3in across at the longest point — a good ormer is 4in-5in across | I pay £1.25 and I sell them for £1.75. If I put them on sale at 8am

The taxi driver who took me from

slightly wary, bunch. drinks and sat down. hasic rules for catching orniers. "There's got to

and you can't use breathing apparatus." Another, Alan, gave me a tip about cooking them: "Never take the black off. That's pure iodine."

And then, eventually, to the chagrin of a number of the others and accompanied by a low groan of "Oh God, don't tell him that", one whose name I did not get told me he would put me in touch with a "diver".

one called.

they rarely reach the restaurants and fish markets. But the demand is there and it is strong.

divers. "Legislation against diving was introduced 35 years ago," he said. And the fact that illegal divers and it is strong.

"If someone has had a good day

they're gone by 9am. "It's very rare that I get offered them, though. The thriving market is the black one. Last Christmas, one guy I know made himself £15,000 selling ormers. Obviously, he didn't catch them all in one go. He had them in his freezer and come the word, he emptied them out. They went to

London, to the Chinese." the airport to St Helier had suggested with a wink that I visit La Folie Inn.

by the Old Harbour, if I wanted to find out a little more about ormers. Perhaps it was the gateway to Chinatown. With line on the floor and Formica on the bar, The Folie, as it is known locally, is used by fishermen and Friday lunchtime is a busy time. They were a surprisingly friendly, if

bought a round of One, Steve, told me the be an R in the month

"It's £13 to £20 a dozen they cost. That's top. The biggest black market is the Chinese in London. They pass them off as abalones." I hurriedly jotted my hotel number down on a scrap of paper and handed it over. But, perhaps because they were unsure of my reason for inquiring, no

The way the "divers" go about getting their ormers is, unsurprisingly, by diving for them with face masks and breathing apparatus. For more information I sought out Simon Bossy of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in St Helier, the man whose job it is to apprehend the

now face £50,000 fines and the confiscation of their boats gives some idea of the real value of the ormer

The first regulations came in soon after diving became a popular sport. The public wanted the legislation to protect the ormers. They take four years to grow to the minimum size of three inches at which they can be legally caught. Very few people go low-water fishing and sell them. They car them or give them to relatives. It's

Legislation did not work because to be prosecuted successfully divers had to be caught in the act of actually diving; mere possession was not an offence. So, in 1995, the law regarding the fishing for and possession of

ormers changed again.
"We made it legal," Mr Bossy said,

HOW ORMERS CLIMB IN VALUE

"to be in possession of ormers only at

certain times of the year. These times

sounds, would-be ormerers are now

greeted on the beaches of Jersey with

posters that clearly lay down the

rules. No ormers may be gathered

between May and August. And

during the season "fishing may only

take place on the first day of each new

or full moon and the three following

unthermore, with regard to

the possession of ormers, "It

the possession or transfer to is now an offence either to

port ormers at any time other than between September 1 and April 30

and then on the first day of each full

or new moon and the five following

fraten, cured or otherwise preserval,

so those low-water fishermen wish-

The term "fresh" does not include

nossess fresh ormers or ex-

As wonderfully surreal as this

relate to the moon."

Pickers sell them in Jersey

for £1.70 each

for £2.50 each

for £3,50 each

for **£7,60** each

Sold to middleman

Sold to restaurant

Sold to customer

Prices for single

ing to freeze down a "feed" to be eaten out of season may still do so.

To prosecute the divers successfully, Mr Bossy and his men must catch them in possession of ormers and diving equipment, or in the act of

exporting them during the close season. It is not easy.
"We have a 35ft patrol boat and high-speed rigid inflatables that can do 40 knots," said Mr Bossy. "There is no limit to the fines and that is an escalating situation. Japanese and oriental people in London are very keen to get them. The market has increased in the past ten years."

However, there is little room for outsiders to break into it. The islanders — and even though some simply deny that "diving" exists, I got the impression that most people with even half an interest in local matters know who the perpetrators are - will not tolerate it.

Jersey swears its allegiance to the Crown, not any British government, and traditions Whisky Galore are very much alive on the

> This attitude also serves to ensure that the illegal gathering of ormers is pretty much self-regulating. The divers will not over-fish them because they obviously do not want to ruin a lucrative sideline and, equally obviously, they will not let anyone else do so either. So if the locals see any outsiders — who tend to be French - diving for

ormers. Mr Bossy is likely to be tipped off. "We had an incident four weeks ago," he said. We got a phone call saying a boat 12 miles south was acting suspiciously. We were there in 45 minutes but the other boat aborted its operation and went off at high speed. It was doing 45 knots and we could only do 40

"Generally in these situations people dump their ormers over the side because they obviously don't want to be caught with them. But we have caught people with hundreds of them before now."

Not me, though, it would have taken me a good wad of cash and rather more than a weekend on Jersey to have got hold of a few hundred of the things. I did not leave empty-handed, however.

For this I must thank David Dodge, a super-keen and completely legal ormeter who runs the island's Vicana Bakery, and also his friends from the Old Smuggler Inn in the

village of Ourisne. The low tide of November 15 saw us - half a dozen reasonably sane men - splashing around in the water. It was L3C. I was fully clothed and wet up to my waist. others were dressed in shorts and one, Pete, was dressed in a wetsuit (minus face mask and breathing apparatus, of course), and kept throwing himself under the water.

This, I was told, was not an unusual Jersey scene. And I was also told that due to the fact that the tide was not particularly low and the barometer was not too high, we would be lucky if we found any ormers at all.

Thankfully, in the end, Pete got four of them. After a couple of hours in the water, we retired to the pubwhere, soaking wet and minus shoes and socks. I tried the ormers raw and then sliced very thinly and fried with butter and garlic over an open fire (which at the same time was drying my socks, incidentally).

Firm, fresh and meaty, the ormers were delicious. But not as delicious as they were for lunch the next day.

By then they had been braised in weal stock for 18 hours and came with mash and good bread to mop up the gravy. They were fantastic: firm in texture and incredibly rich. The flavour was truffle-like in its intensity and there was a slight tang of the sea but, in reality, they tasted like nothing else.

Last week, back in London and with my new-found taste for ormers now well developed, I thought I would drop into the New Hoo Wah restaurant in Gerrard Street, in the heart of Chinatown, for lunch.

Yes, they had abalone. They were frozen and they came with either Sea Cucumber, Fish's Lips. Green Vegetables, or Chinese Mushrooms. They cost £15 for two — save for the lobster. the most expensive items on the menu. I ate them with Green Vegetables and an oyster mushroom sauce. They looked just like the ormers I had eaten in Jersey but were smaller. However, they were also delicious.

I asked Mr Chan, the restaurant's manager, where he got them. Through Sun Wah, a wholesaler, he said. Sun Wah got them from Jersey and Spain. They were very popular. he went on, with Chinese and

apanese people. I told him I knew that and asked if he knew anything about the black market for Jersey ormers. "This don't know about," he answered quickly - and finally.

• Rohan Daft flew to Jersey with BA and stayed at The Revere Hotel, Kensington Place, St Helier, Jersey JE2 3PA (01534 611111). Jersey Tourism, 38 Dover Street, London WIX 3128 (DIT1-493 5228)



Enjoying abalones at the New Hoo Wah restaurant



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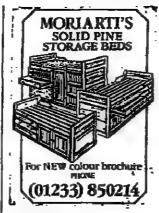
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Mexican waves that send you reeling



Off the Baja peninsula,

Mark Herbert is hooked on

fishing for

marlin

t is a long, difficult journey from Britain to Mexico's Baja peninsula and not many people make it. Once in Los Angeles, however, the route to a connecting flight is clearly signposted: you follow what looks like a convention of caber-tossers. They are on a pilgrimage to arguably the best fishing grounds in the world, and take the pastime seriously enough to bring their own rods in plastic drainpipes.

Mexico tried to sell Baja California, the 700-mile long peninsula dangling off North America's Pacific coast, to the United States for a snip after the countries made peace in 1848. The Americans saw only mountains, poverty and deserts and declined. It proved an expensive mistake.

A century later, a trickle of Hollywood types began flying to Cabo San Lucas, a cannery village at the land's end, lured by tales of fabulous big-game fishing and the remoteness is a flood and as you negotiate the bureaucratic purgatory of Los Angeles Airport, you wonder whether Uncle Sam should have shelled out the bucks all those years ago and recouped by cutting corners on

Cabo San Lucas is the principal resort of the Mexican state of Baja California Sur. It might as well have been sold to the Americans. It is a brash, vibrant, ugly place that grows visibly with each dawn. The talk of the town is a new bar with lap dancers. There are beggars and touts on every corner selling timeshare, fish-ing. golf, whale-watching tours and sunset cruises.

Visitors for whom none of these things are important pass through and head east for San José or La Paz. For the fishing fraternity, what hap-pens on land is secondary. The cool Pacific Ocean to the west and the warm Sea of Cortez to the east have combined to create a diverse broth of maritime life. At the top of the marine food chain are the great game fish: marlin. swordfish, tuna, shark and grouper; and above them are the men — and women — who

come to hunt them. The prime target is marlin and the prime location Buena Vista, a balmy village fringed by palms on the East Cape. close to the southern tip of Baja California. Sixty miles south of La Paz lies the Buena Vista Resort, a lush casis laid in neat stuccoed terraces that breathes fish and fishermen, from the wrought-iron sculpture of leaping billfish in front of reception to the aquarium in

the restaurant. Each day begins in the same way. At dawn, a mobile pontoon is laid on the sea and ignitions spark in a score of boats. The skippers load coolboxes, drinks, tackle and,



finally, their charges. Fishermen on board, the boats radiate at full throttle to the

At the foot of the social scale, boatwise, is the panga, a 22ft skiff with an outboard engine and a skipper; status, and price, increase towards the cruisers. The fishing is good enough not to make a difference, but the hand-to-hand combat that comes with fighting big fish in a small boat adds to the attraction.

y first marlin was hooked just 15 minutes from the shore. Juan. the skipper, spotted the triangular fin and great sickle tail of a basking fish and we fell into a routine that was to become familiar: throttle back to edge the panga around the fish, cast a live mackerel 25 yards into its path, then wait, heart pounding, with a wisp of line between your fingers. The tail beats once,

decisively, and the martin slides out of sight. The frantic movement of the bait is replaced by a jult, then the line peels off unstoppably. You count ten breathless seconds and strike: jag the rod to set the hook, then watch the reel smoke as the fish dives.

An hour later, the fish and I wallowed exhausted against the side of the boat. It was a striped marlin of around 150lb. Buena Vista's standard fare. Nine out of ten are put back. Only trophy-size fish or those deep-hooked are kept. I elected to release my catch. As Juan bent to release the

hook it thrashed wildly against the hull. Its parting riposte was a Zorro-like slash to Juan's cheek with its bill before it dived for the deep.



Mark and his dorado

This was the first of several marlin. Two broke the line and several ignored the bait. The second one I caught leapt and tailwalked its way to exhaustion within 20 minutes.

The athleticism of these marine greyhounds is legendary. Once, as Juan prepared to cast to a basking fish, I bungled the steering and dropped the panga almost on top of the dozing fish. It dived, then erupted furiously 8ft into the air behind the stern. Ten huge leaps in as many seconds took it 100 yards from us and aithough we chased at full throttle, we were way behind when it gave up its private

decathlon and slid out of right. You wonder, then, whether to congratulate or commiserate with the holders of the resort record; three guys from Idaho who hooked their fish on Saturday and came back on Sunday after 22 hours spent being hauled in a 40-mile circuit by a 950lb blue marlin.

If fishing pales, the coast around the East Cape is a delight of deserted shores, rocky reefs and emerald waters full of life, but you need a car or cance to explore them. Better, and more accessible, beaches are found further north on the Pichilingue peninsula, the thumb of land that protects La Paz. The best is Playa Balandra, a giorious half-mile shallow bowl ten miles from town.

In spite of the town's growing pains, the things that are good around Cabo San Lucas are still cheap. Food and drink cost little and its craft shops sell incredible silver, pewter, glass and leather.

Finally, there is La Concha, the most romantic restaurant in the world. It sits halfway between Cabo San Lucas and San José. There are a couple of palm-thatched rondavels above a perfect tide pool where you can swim with brillian coral fish, safe from the growling waves rolling in from the

I celebrated my birthday with lobster, fish and shellfish, all straight from the sea. The air was still enough to hear a whale breathe at 100 yards. The restaurant watched entranced as a young humoback made its way along the coast. throwing up curtains of white water as it leapt and cavorted. Nobody said a word as it ploughed towards the sunset. No words were needed.

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blends with typical Russian mercantile colour creating a city of great interest. Prince Andrei Bolkonsky from Tolstoy's War & Peace' died here and this was also the site of Russia's first National Theatre and first provincial newspaper.

See the 17th century Church of Elijah the Prophet and explore its ancient streets. Day 7 Goritsy. Nearby is the imposing and forcess-like Natilo-Beloversky Monastery. Afternoon cruising Day 8 Kizhi. Spend the morning cruising on the vast lake of Onega. Here in the majestic Karelian countryside we will visit the tiny island of Kizhi famous for its 22 domed wooden church, which was erected without the aid of a Day 9 Swir Stroy. Today we will stop at a small settlement on the River Stroy which links the two great lakes of Onega and Ladoga. It is a charming area of farms and forests and ideal for country walk. Day 10 St Petersburg. Morning city drive around St Petersburg's aristocratic palaces and a visit to the Russian Museum which specialises in Russian art from he 18th century onwards. Afternoon visit to the Pushkin Palace. Evening performance at the Mariinsky Theatre (subject to suitable performance). Day 11 St Petersburg. Morning visit to the incomparable Hermitage Museum. After lunch there will be a rour of the Rimsky-Korsakov Museum. Evening baller performance at the restored intimate theatre in the

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Getting there: Flights to Los Cabos International Airport (for Cabo San Lucas) operate via several US cities. Aero California also flies direct from Los Angeles to Lu Paz, Prices with Going Places (0541 55533-f), for example, start at £507 return for flights between December 25-March 31 to Los Angeles and onwards to La Paz. British Airways (0345 222111) (lies

direct to Mexico City. Onward flights to Los Cabos are with Mexicana or Aero Mexico. BA/Mexicana prices to Los Cabos start at £618 return potif March 31. The Buena Vista Beach Resort (00) 619 425 (55)) offers a five-day, four-night rackage: prices start at \$815 (£488) in high season. April-July. The package includes two days' fishing on a panga.

■ The Cortez Club (01273 731144) organises sports holidays around La Paz. Six nights at the five-star La Coneha Beach Resort on the Pichikengue peninsula, based on two sharing and including flights, transfers, two days' fishing on a panga, and



FISH FACTS

an overnight stay at the Wyndham Hotel in Los Angeles, start at £900 (room only, excluding taxes). The Club can arrange diving charters, live-aboard safaris, sailing craft hire and other watersports.

 Other tour operators with inclusive packages to Baja California include Latin merican Travel (0171-630 0070), which has 10-day tours of Baja, starting at £1.600. Sunset Travel (0171-498 9922) features Los Cabos — prices start at £927 for seven nights, with Air France flights via Paris. Cathy Matos Mexican Tours (0171-267 3757)

also operates to the region and fishing expeditions can be arranged locally. ■ The Fishing News: Tackle for martin. dorado, roosterfish, tuna and jacks needs to be robust — 30lb or 50lb class boat rods with lever-drag multipliers. Shore fishing is extraordinarily good too, with big-game species possible off some beaches. Britishstyle beachcasters are too (limsy; use uptide or light boat rods, heavy casting multipliers with 30th line, and live bait. Spinning and fly fishing are also productive When to go: It hardly ever mins between October and April: avoid August, when most of Central America is on

Sea of Cortex, by John Steinbeck (Mandarin. ES.99): Cabo Handbook, by Joe Cummings (Moon, £9.95): The World Atlas of Sportfishing, by Ken Schultz (Flamlyn) Mexico, (Lonely Planet, £12.95). For further information: Mexico Ministry of Tourism (0171-734 1058).

Syria: Times archaeology correspondent Norman Hammond is awestruck by its ancient relics

Country with a reputation in ruins



n my first night in £100 on drinks and smokes at the Paradise Café. Luckily the drinks were coffee - thick, sweet and laced with cardamom — the smoke was from a nargileh, a hubble-bubble pipe filled with tufa, an apple-scented tobacco, and the pounds were Syrian, at around 65 to the British

Men sat in pairs or in fours, playing backgammon or cards in the evening warmth, and over the hedge was the dark shadow of the ancient locomotive of the Hejaz Railway. which once ran from here to Medina until Lawrence of

Arabia blew it up.
I thought of Lawrence a couple of days later. We had explored Damascus in the footsteps of earlier travellers from the Great Mosque to the Street Called Straight", where St Paul found refuge in his blindness, and had driven south into the volcanic landscape of the Jebel Druze

This is where he was cap tured, though not recognised, Seven Pillars of Wisdom. We recognised Lawrence's landscapes from his evocative descriptions, but our target was older even than the Crusader castles that had brought him

to Syria as an undergraduate. We were bound for the great Roman ruins of Bosra, the first stop on an anti-clockwise archaeological circuit of the country that would take us east to the Euphrates, close to the Iraqi and Turkish borders, and back to the Mediterranean and the foothills of the mountains of Lebanon.

We were led by Dr Jonathan Tubb of the British Museum, an expert on the Bronze Age who digs in Jordan but who knows Syria and the archaeologists who work there. This stood us in good stead later in the trip, when the enthusiasts for tells (ancient city mounds)

about two-thirds of our group of 17 - hired a freelance minibus for the day from Aleppo and went off to look at these mounds and their current excavations along the upper Euphrates.

There was a creative tension throughout the tour between those who wanted to see as

in our 12 days even if it meant getting to the hotel late, and those who wanted to reach the comfort of the hotel in time to relax before dinner.

Emily Stokely, Andante Travels young tour manager, who is an Oxford graduate in Classical Chinese, our Syrian guide Ali (a pharmacist moonlighting from his official job) and our long-suffering driver Yusuf were left to pick up the tatters of the daily schedule.

Bosra was a revelation: an entire Roman city, once the capital of the province of Arabia, with its theatre preserved by incorporation into a medieval fortress, and studded with early churches and some of the oldest surviving mosques in Islam.

Along the main street, a cryptoporticus (a cool storage cellar) more than 100 yards long had been excavated with little sloping apertures light-ing it from kerb-level.

The next day was one of dramatic contrasts. First, our leader Jonathan jed us over dirt tracks to Kadesh, site of what the Encyclopaedia Britannica calls "perhaps the most famous battle of pre-

Here, in 1289 BC, the armies of the Pharaoh Ramses II and the Hittite king Mutawallis met in an indecisive engagement that both sides claimed as a victory, and which established the balance of power in the Middle East for long after.

tory, if it can be called such, came to mind as we went into Hama to hunch beside the river Orontes with its huge creaking waterwheels. Here, in 1982, President Hafez al-Assad moved against the rebellious Muslim Brotherhood with tanks and allegedly poison gas; the death toll is variously estimated at 10,000 to 25,000. It was a brutal side to the regime that we saw nothing of — there were fewer men in uniform around than on an average day in London and none carried guns - and the evident prosperity of mod-em Syria is tree of overt

Local views are mixed. "If I criticised the government publicly, I would disappear," said one of my acquaintances in the Paradise Café, "but Assad

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saved us from the fundamen-

 not all its demolished area has been rebuilt since 1982 and travel across the flat, dry steppe to the more credible ruins of Palmyra. This was the city of the warrior-queen Zenobia who, for a brief period in AD 269-72, swept all before her as she conquered Egypt different kind of vicand Anatolia. Captured by the Emperor Aurelian as she tried to flee across the Euphrates on a camel, she reputedly ended her days in luxurious captivity at Tivoli near Rome.

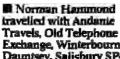
Poised between the powers of Rome and Parthia, Palmyra was the Hong Kong of its age, devoted entirely to commerce. The treasurer outranked the legislature, and the barooue exuberance of its buildings, adorned with statues of the desert tycoons, fused the styles of Greece and Persia. The "Bride of the Desert"

has caught the imagination of artists and writers, from William Halifax's report to the Royal Society 300 years ago to John Fowles's Daniel Martin. The most noted record. Wood and Dawkins's Ruins of Palmyra in 1753, included geometric designs that were taken up by fashionable architects, including Robert Adam's Palmyrene ceilings at Osterley and Croome Court and

George Pitt's dining room and library at Stratfield Saye. Palmyra itself is remarkably unchanged from then, although French. German and Syrian archaeologists have excavated and restored several areas along the great colon-naded street (which, canopied over in Roman times must have looked much like the souk we visited in Aleppo).

The Valley of the Tombs is still as spooky as early travel-lers found it, its towering mausolea silent in the sunshine. Some were family vaults, each space marked with a stone bust of its occupant, but others, notably the Three Brothers hypogeum. a painted underground chamber, were commercial proposi-tions, where slots for eternity were sold off.

Midday is best spent in the shade of the Hotel Zenobia's garden with a yeasty Syrian beer in hand, looking out on the charming little Temple of Bel-Shamin and the multitude of columns forming a panoramic backdrop beyond, but it is at dawn and at sunset that the ruins look most special with their ethereal golden glow. We had too little time



FACT FILE

Exchange, Winterbourne Dauntsey, Salisbury SP4 6EH (01980 610555, fax 610002), which is repeating this 12-day tour of Syria in October 1998. The price of £1,380 per person is based on two sharing and covers flights,

full board accommodation,

a guide and lecturer and a

tour manager. Andante is run by Dr Annabel Lawson, an archaeologist and an experon the Roman army. It specialises in trips to places such as the palaeolithic painted caves of the Dordogne and Pyrenees, the

Roman provinces around the Mediterranean, and medieval Europe from Hungary to Quercy. The company is branching out in its tour options, with a study of Namibian rock art in June 1998.

cooling desert towards Deir ez-

Zur on the Euphrates as the

there was some compensation.

the next night as we trailed in

from the hottest day of the trip,

downriver almost to Iraq to

visit the Bronze Age palace of

Mari and the Parthian metrop-

matic and household records

of the last ruler, Zimrilim,

around 1760BC, and for the

courtyards and storehouses

which bear a striking resem-

blance to the Minoan palace of

Knossos on Crete, another

proto-historic city-state mak-

Dura, its citadel still tower

ing above the Euphrates, is

noted for the exotic cults it

housed. A superbiy decorated

synagogue of AD 246 has been

reconstructed in the national

museum in Damascus, and an

early church at Yale: temples

to Mithras. Atargatis and

other deities remain, along

with what must be the small-

ing its way in the world.

ari is famous for

20,000 day tab-

lets, the diplo-

olis of Dura Europos.

It was even more welcome

there, rolling away across the sive ramparts weakened by mining and countermining until they collapsed, burying sun sank, although the airthe sappers with their last pay conditioned luxury of the still in their purses; the date on Cham Palace when we got the latest coins pinpointed the siege to AD256. Abandoned cities occupied us as we drove upstream and then westwards to Aleppo - the Byzantine fortresses of Halabiyyeh and Rasafeh, the pilgrimage centre of Qala'at Samaan where St Simon Stylites sat on a pillar (still preserved as a stub) for 42 years, and the Bronze Age centres of Ebla and Ugarit. its archive of Ebla, like Mari, has yielded a tablet archive but one which includes grammars, dictionaries and school texts recording names familiar from the Old Testament in the late third millennium BC; Ugarit, a thousand years later, was an

Syrian Arab Airlines

(0171-493 2851) and British Airways (0345 222111) fly to

Damascus from Heathrows

BA Superpex fares from

required, at £31.50 for UK

passport holders, from the Syrian Embassy, 8 Belgrave

E382. A Syrian visa is

in nervous correspondence with Akhenaten's Egypt and Hittite Anatolia. In these bare ruined courts a knowledge and sense of history bring the walls to life. The most recent history that we encountered was that of the Crusader Kingdom. For almost two centuries, from AD 1099 to 1291, the Counts of Toulouse, the Regents of Antioch, the Templars and the Hospitallers ruled this strip of the Levantine coast, building a series of massive castles of European design, of which Crac des Chevaliers and Margab are the most speciacular. European churches were built, too: the former cathedral at Tartus is a strikingly unmodified example of early French Gothic (now used as an archaeological museum).

Square, London SW1 (0171-

245 9012). You will not get a visa if there are Israeli

stamps in your passport. Typhoid and hepatitis A

mmunisations are

Resurgent Islam and the military genius of Saladin and

rental from Chamcars from recommended. There are Cham Hotels in about £43/day, £390/week. Damascus, Aleppo, Bosra, Reading: Robin Fedden

Midday is best spent in the shade of the Hotel Zenobia's garden, looking out on the Temple of Bel-Shamin

his Mameluke successors whittled away the fortresses and on August 3, 1291, the Crusaders abandoned Tartus, their last mainland stronghold, for the offshore islet of Arwad. We, too, took the short boat journey (for a fish lunch

Palmyra, Deir ez-Zur and

several other towns. Room

Hotel Zenobia at Palmyra

costs £35-40 per room. Car

rates from approx £50-£120.

(00 963 31 910107, fax 912407)

beside the castle walls) and remembered the last of the Templar knights who in 1302 were taken off to captivity in Cairo, ending the struggle for the Holy Land. Next day we left Syria, but unlike the Crusaders, I shall go back.

Syria and Lebanon (1965) is

Introduction. Ross Burns".

Monuments of Syria: An ...

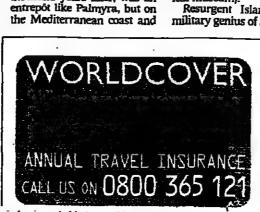
Historical Guide (IB Tauris,

£18.95) is the best guide to :

archaeology. Lonely Planet

publishes Jordan & Syria, £11.99.

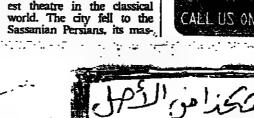
still the best general





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WORLD SHOPPING: MOROCCO

A bazaar experience unwrapped

Melissa de Villiers opens three pages of Christmas shopping ideas with a visit

to Marrakesh

probably sounded Rabbit With half a day left in Marrakesh's souks, I had just spent 20 minutes haggling over the price of my first purchase. No more than you'd expect for a carpet, perhaps - but this was, after all, only a packet of henna powder.

To the shopkeeper, my increasingly agitated mutterings about being late for an important date (my plane) were merely an opening gambit. Time to respond in kind, "We drink mint tea! With sugar, or without?" he cried. It was a salutary lesson that the souks are no place for a spot of lastminute shopping. You need cash, a large suitcase, a sense of humour and plenty of time.

Marrakesh has been a market town for more than 900 years, a place for mountain tribesmen and desert traders to congregate, barter, and buy. The quality of the handicrafts here (especially leatherwork and marquetry) is excellent; it's also a good place to find antiques, carpets, and jewellery. More than that, the souks represent a slice of life that has changed little since medieval

Getting Oriented: The way in is through the Djemas el Fna, a sprawling, chaotic square at the heart of the medina (the old town). A traditional meeting point for street entertainers - from snake-charmers to musicians and story-tellers it is always jammed with people, and at its most atmo-

spheric at night.
The souks lie immediately to the north; a tortuous web of alleys roofed with an iron trellis through which the sunlight filters, casting a dim light on men in hooded cloaks, housewives carrying trays to communal overs, and ragged porters bent double under the weight of enormous sacks.

Busy Rue Souk Semarine, the main street, snakes down to the heart of the labyrinth. With each souk specialising in a particular trade. Semarine is the textiles market, stuffed with neat rolls of cloth. All is order and modernity, yet at Souk Larzal the tradesmen sir in tiny, hole-in-the-wall shops. able to reach their stock (piles of sheepskins) simply by ex-

tending a hand. Rahba Kedima, one of the souks' rare open spaces, is dominated by traditional herbalists. Here Rue Semarine splits into two lanes - Souk el Attarin and Souk el Kebir - but before you leave, pay a visit to the carpet shops in the gloomy enclave on the square's north side — one of the best places in Marrakesh to buy Berber carpets.



The Thirty of the Control of the Con On the road to a bargain



Market forces: the souks of Marrakesh represent a slice of Moroccan life that has changed little since medieval times, a place for desert traders and mountain tribespeople to barter and buy

heart of the labyrinth. Souk el Attarin leads to a slipper alley. lined by small, brightly lit kiosks crammed with pointytoed babouches (Moroccan slippers). Souk el Kebir delivers you to the Kissarias - a block of arcades whose chief stock is cheap copies of Western designer brands. The alleys on either side are

lined with workshops busy making soft leather slippers and bags (Souk Cherratin). furniture (Souk Chouari), and skeins of dyed wool (Souk aux Teinturiers).
The smell, always pleasant-

ly spicy, changes abruptly with the nature of the merchandise. There's no bresk in the hubbub until the muezin's wail rises up from hidden mosques, when the workers head off to pray.

The sound of hammering guides you to the ironsmith's quarter (Souk el Haddadine). With everyone engrossed in their own particular tasks anything from a spiral staircase to an ornate window grille - tourists are tolerated here. Only in the shops genred towards the traditional trades are serious attempts made to

Avoiding the Hassle: Like all the most rewarding travellers' destinations, Marrakesh is hard work. Devoid (merciful-



ly) of landmarks such as neon signs or advertising hoardings, the souks can seem confusing; steel yourself, too, for unrelenting pressure from a stream of would-be guides, eager to take you shopping just to look", but equally anxious for commission on any purchases you make.

Arranging an introductory tour with a guide is a useful tactic. Your hotel will be able to arrange an official guide registered with the tourist board: reckon paying 150 dir-ham (£10) for a half day. Unofficial guides will find you. Students can be much more interesting company than a bored official guide.

How to haggle: The effort tradesmen put into their sales pitch is astonishing, and if you're serious about a deal, you must respond in kind. And while the rigmarole of hargaining can be wearisome. don't start haggling for some-



On the scent: the rich smell of spices is ever present

thing you have no intention of buying - there's no better way to cause bad feeling.

The golden rule is simply to pay what the item is worth to and start well below it (say, a third). If you're intent on making a big purchase, do your homework first. Visit traditional crafts museums, such as the Museum of Moroccan Art (housed in the beautiful Dar Si Said Palace) and check the classic designs antique carpets and

jewellery. For handicrafts, the state-run co-operative, Ensembles Artisanales (in Avenue Mohammed V), offers handicrafts at fixed prices which you can use as a guide.

Always ask for a detailed invoice if you want the souk trader to ship your goods home. As Morocco is not in the EU, you will have to pay duty on goods above £145.

TOP SHOPS

el Ghasoul (00 212 442 7706). A family-run business stocking fine furniture and wooden ornaments. Boxes of thuva wood (an indigenous wood) inisid with mother-of-pearl, £25; walnut salad bowl, £13. Reasonable postage and packing costs, according to bulk. Abou el Albada Frères, 3-5 Souk el Haddadine, (00 212 443 1342) is a big, busy metalworkers shop with a nice sideline in delicate ornaments. A small, hammeredsteel fish with long, winsome

engraved eye lashes costs 55. Near the entrance to Souk Cherratin, El Fathi Alaoui, 242 Chkairia, is packed with exotic trappings used in the Fantasia, the folklore displays performed by costumed horsemen, from superb saddles to enormous Saharan tents — a snip at £600.

Give It A Miss: It is illegal to import handicrafts made from an endangered species, so avoid buying anything made from tortoiseshell — most commonly used to make stringed musical instruments.

Shopping in the New Town: With its expensive boutiques and air-conditioned supermarket, Gueliz, the Frenchbuilt, modern side of town, is a world away from the medieval Amdjar Abdessiam, 23 Souk mayhem of the souks. L'Orientaliste, 15, rue de la Liberté (00 212 443 4074) has good ceramics, silver ewellery, and crafts. At Antiqnities Zaina, 44 Tarik Ibn Ziad (00 212 444 9790), a silver chest studded with lapis-lazuli, costs £800.

Catching your breath: The

souks are surprisingly short of

cafés and restaurants. Head for Cafe Argana on the north side of the Djeman, where you can relax over a glass of fresh orange juice (20p) or a coffee (85p), and inspect your booty. It's easy to forget the medina is also a residential quarter, with mosques and houses hidden behind elaborately decorated arches and high, padlocked gates. Restaurant Yacout (79, Sidi Ahmed Soussi) is a glimpse into this secret world. Set in an exquisite old palace, it serves classic Moroccan dishes, beautifully cooked (about £35 for two courses with wine; booking

essential, ask at your hotel). Lit by lanterns, the Djeman el Fua foodstalls, which set up in the evenings, offer excellent value and variety. Guides often suggest that the food isn't very healthy, but as the cooking is all done before your eyes, standards of cleanliness are at least open to scrutiny. A plate of sizzling brochettes and salad costs about £2.

■ Melissa de Villiers travelled with Panorama Holidays (01273 206531). which offers seven and 14-day packages to Marrakesh from £329 per person. The price includes halfboard or B&B accommodation in a choice of four- or five-star hotels. transfers, air passenger duty, and return flights from Heathrow. The company also offers a range of excursions, with half-day city tours at £15 per person; a traditional Moroccan dinner plus a folklore

show is £27 per person.

Anyone wanting to travel before Christmas can fly on Tuesday (December 9) from Gatwick for seven nights and stay at either the El Andalous on half board for £329 per person, or at the Imperial Borj for £379 B&B. The price is based on two sharing and includes flights. transfers and taxes.

Goldenjoy Holidays (0171-794 9767) has switched its programme from Luxor, in Egypt, to Marrakesh and Agadir following the terrorist massacre. It has two trips leaving on December 19: a two-centre (Marrakesh and Agadir) holiday with seven nights' B&B at a three-star

FACT FILE

hotel costs from £399 including flights from Gatwick transfers and taxes. A seven-night Marrakeshbased holiday at the four-star Safir Hotel costs from £449 for B&B.

When To Visit Winter (November to March) is sunny and mild, with temperatures averaging about 68F (20C), although the nights are much cooler. Summers can be unbearably hot - up to 104F (38C) aggravated by the chergui. a fierce desert wind. During the lunar month of Ramadan (in 1997-8, it is the four weeks beginning December 31), there are fewer tourists and an especially festive atmosphere every sunset when fasting stops, although you may find service in botels is slower.

What To Pack: Camera, money belt, sunglasses, a sweater for cool winter evenings. In the soules, keep a close eye on valuables — knapsacks are not a good idea. Away from the hotel pool, women should cover their shoulders and wear skirts and shorts which are at least knee length

the more you cover, the less you'll

■ When To Shop: The souks are at their most crowded in the early evenings, just before closing time at 7pm; in the summer, shops stay open as late as iOpm. A good time to go is between 4-5pm, when some stalls auction off goods to local traders great fun to watch. Many shops close for lunch between noon and 2pm; some close on Fridays (the Muslim equivalent of the Sabbath), and almost all close on Sundays.

Reading: Morneca: The Rough Guide (Rough Guides, £9.99) is the pick of the guide books. First published in 1921, Morocco That Was. by former Times correspondent Walter Harris (Eland. £8.99), is a fundy, romantic account of the years leading up to the French protectorate; Hideous Kinky by Esther Freud (Penguin, £5,99), is a fictional tale of hippy travels through Morocco, seen through the eyes of a five-year-old.

Moroccan National Tourist Office, 0171 437 0073.

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WORLD SHOPPING: SEE IT THERE, BUY IT

Gather gifts with a good conscience



Selling batik fabrics on a Kenyan beach

AS EVERY true shopsholic knows, the world gets smaller AS EVERT true snopanous knows, the world gets smaller to make shopping easier. But is your money benefiting small-scale producers—or making the fat cats fatter? Those who would like their Christmas shopping to benefit workers as well as loved ones should visit the Christmas Market at Global Partnership World Fair at London's Olympia next weekend, where more than 100 fair traders will be represented.

"This is by far the most colourful ethnic fair in the UK." said Benny Dembitzer, who started Global Partnership after visiting Ethiopia during the famine of 1980-8i. Horrified by the lack of international intervention, Dembitzer set out to educate people about the responsibilities of globalisation: "From slavery to unfair trade, people need to know that it's all connected

Dembitzer stresses that fair trade is vital to developing economies: "A Conran shop buyer visited a small stall at the fair a couple of years ago and ordered enough stock to support the co-operative in Peru for a year. Aid helps, but it's not enough. People need work."

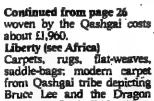
FROM ALBANIAN silver to Zimbabwean copper, the Christmas market offers a range of products for discerning shoppers. Stands include Arnaz (Afghan jewellery). Nepal Bazar. Habibi (Ecuadorean goods) and Creative Crafts and Gifts (from Zimbabwe). More familiar names include The Body Shop, the publisher of Rough Guides, offering many of its books at a special discount, and Café Direct, offering its ethically produced and marketed coffee.

More than 120 voluntary operations will be represented.

More than 120 voluntary operations will be represented, including Oxfam. VSO, the British Red Cross and Save the including Oxfarn, VSO, the British Red Cross and Save the Children Fund. "Shopping has become a leisure activity. It's a powerful magneti, said Denshitzer. "We want to challenge people on different levels." And of course, to ensure the Christmas spirit is spread a little more evenly.

The Global Paramasian Mond Fair is at Kensington Olympia 2 December 12-14, open 1 jam Spm Friddy and Saturday, Ham-Spm Sunday. Entrance £5, concs £2.50, children under six free. Family tickets (two adults and two children) £10. Further details: send an SAE to Global Partnership, PO Box 1001, London SE249NL.

JOANNA HUNTER



1-1-1

(210cm x 137cm), £790; Afshar Sofreh abstract design used as a traditional eating cloth (120cm x 115cm), £200.

Neal Street East (see Afghan-

istau) Shoji lamps, from £36.50; paper lamps. £3.10-£19.50; teapot sets, £29_50-£49; old indigo textiles, £80-£200; castiron kettle, £69.95; cast-iron wind chimes £6.50.

PHILIPPINES David & Charles Wainwright (see India)

Chunky Spanish-style old teak tables, £500-£1,200; old colonial recliners, £120-£390; por-celain knobs, £14; coarhangers with porcelain tips, £18; basketware from Borneo. Neal Street East (see Afghan-

Huge choice of baskets; pea-cock chair; bead curtains, from £13.45; shells. 30p-£9.50. Sala (see Africa) Accessories and furniture include Bubu fish traps, from £10.50; metal & rattan chairs, £145; metal four-poster bed, £800; wire mannequins, £175; moss & wire urn, £95; wood &

VIETNAM Graham & Green (see India) Silk-lined jackets and trousers; silver lacquerware trays, 661,95, platters and bowls; red velvet quilts. £275; bamboo

chicken wire cabinet, £295.

plates, £59.95. The Holding Company, 243-5 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352 1600)

Rattan baskets, from £12.95; ranan trunk. \$50; lined rattan organisers, from £9.95; lined laundry basket, £29.95. Joss Graham (see India) Traditional stoneware pots, £13-£195. Large collection of lacquerware.

NEW ZEALAND Kiwifruits, 6-7 Royal Opera Arcade, Pall Mall, London SW1 (0171-930 4587) All Blucks souvenirs including UK Tour T-shirt, £12.95, scarf, EII.95; training jersey, ES9.95; shorts. £23: Haka tea towel,

£3.95; NZ flag tea towel, £3.95.

Rugby videos, £35.



The Americas

YOU will not have to go far to find your rainsticks and Andean woolly hats, or Mayan jewellery and glittering kitsch from Mexico, or even such design classics from the United States as Frank Lloyd Wright building blocks and cool Shaker furniture.

NORTH AMERICA American Retro. 35 Old Compton Street, London WI (0171-734 3477)

Fifties accessories from New Jersey include flick comb, £16. Also Water Drapes (shower curtains with bold designs); melamine tableware. The Holding Company (see

/ietnam) Modern American designs include chrome racks and stacking units; acrylic jewellery chests, £50; plastic swingbins, £15; in-drawer organisers; over-door organisers. The Home, Salrs Mill, Victoria Road, Saltaire, Bradford BD183LB (01274 530770) Kit-form windmill, £24.95; American Chinese food boxes. 50p and 75p: Andy Warhol mugs, £10.95; wooden blocks forming Frank Lloyd Wright buildings £59.95; oversized American glass beer mugs, £2.95; beer pitcher, £9.95. Jerry's Home Store, 163 Ful-ham Road, London SW3 (0171-581 0909); 57-61 Heath Street, London NW3 (017)-794 8622k Bentall Centre. Kingston (0181-549 5393) All-American classics include

mail boxes, Kitchen Aid food mixers. Waring blenders, diner furniture. Fishs Eddy's china diner-ware (eg dinner plate. £11.95); maple salad bowls, £45. Guldens mustard, E3.95: Vermont maple syrup, Jerry's pancake mix. The Shaker Shop, 322 King's Road, London SW3 (0171-352

Folksy gifts include oval boxes, cushions, tin candle-holders, and simple, elegant furniture. Lavender-filled cushions, £8.95; heart-shaped wooden cutting boards. £41.95; oval cherry-wood boxes, from £22_95.

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA Tumi, 8-9 New Bond Street Place, Bath (01225 446025); 1-2 Little Clarendon Street, Oxford (01865 512307); 82 Park Street, Bristol (0117-929 0391); 23 Chalk Farm Road, London NWI (0171-485 4152) Non-profit-making publishing and education department

Hand-painted nativity set from Mexico, available at Tumi in Bath

promotes Latin American culture. Textiles, knitwear, jewellery, wood-carvings, pottery, musical instruments. Mexican wind-chimes, from £7.50; rainmakers, £7.95; recycled tin-framed mirrors, from £12.95; Andean pipes with CD, £12.95; Pottery, £3.95-£19.95.

MEXICO Alternative East (see India) Small jewellery selection in-cludes beaded necklaces, from £3.50; Mayan necklaces from £12; flower pendants encased in glass, £12; Mayan chime balls, from £12 Hand-made Woollen jumpers from £44. Brocklehurst (see Indonesia) Pine chests and boxes: small chest, £149; trunk/coffee table, £399; coffee table inlaid with ceramic tiles, £299. Brightly

a box of 60. Emma Bernhardt, 301 Portobello Road, London W10 (0181-960 2929) Glittery Mexican kitsch includes Day of the Dead figures in sugar, plastic or paper, from El; religious charms: wooden saint pictures; sequin earrings. £2.50; star/heart

coloured tiles, around £30 for

confetti, £2.50. Mexique (see Indonesia) Furniture and accessories include tin mirrors, £1.95-£98, and recycled glassware (eg wine goblet, £7.90); papier maché parrots. Corona beer trays, £7.50; brightly painted nodding armadillos, £2.65; painted clay nativity sets, from

Aalto vases, £24-£85.

FRANCE

£15.95. Wall decorations in-Laure Japy, silver tableware clude tin hearts. £1.95. by Roux Marquiand, china and cutlery by Edouard Rambaud, crystal glasses by Topaz, 10 Thames Street, Kingston (0181-547 3526); also

at Unit 6c, Tunsgate Square, Royales de Champagne. High Street, Guildford (01483 306063) CERMANY Big selection of furniture at The Home (see North America) Beer glasses with designs by

Kingston shop. Three styles rustic, wood with inlaid ceramics and painted. Rustic coffee tables, from £215; bed-side table from £159. Kitchen tables with inlaid tiles. £385: coffee tables with tiles, £295; tiled mirrors, £109; painted



Europe

HERE is a selection of places that sell the best of this continent's offerings. You will find austere Finnish tableware, clever French things for cooks, icons from Mount Athos, paper from southern Italy, colourful glass from Poland.

FINLAND The Home (see North America)

Alvar Aalto-designed furniture includes a classic stool, £49.95. His glassware includes tumblers, jugs, plates and bowls in clear, green or blue glass. Suomico, 80 Hill Rise, Rich-

mond, Surrey (0181-940 0059) The Holding Company (see Chris and Ken Beard, who lived in Finland for five years, Vietnam) design and install saunas and Modern designs include chic desk accessories from £19.95; sauna accessories such as chrome stacking trollies; chrome pedal bins, £64.95; brushes and essence. Marimekko knitwear, dresses and coats and handwoven PVC folding shopping trollies, Unica fabrics made into coats £16.95; aluminium/wood and bags. All-weather boots stacking wine rack. £15; by Permi Palmroth and rubber aluminium CD rack, £25. boots by Nokia, £45. Glass-The Home (see North ware includes vases, candle-Traditional china with writing holders and stemware. Alvar

The White House, 40-41 Conduit Street. London W1 (0171-Embroidered bed linen, Li-

moges china by Lafarge and

(eg burro for the butter dish); parmesan knife, £2.95; almond glue in galvanised tin, £3.95; mermaid bookmarks, £4.95 for three. Heal's, 234 King's Road,

London SW3 (0171-349 8411)

Alessi accessories include

Italian notebooks at

Papyrus, Bath, from £12.50

artists and architects, £10.95;

Miniature building blocks,

The Greek Shop, 6 New-

burgh Street, London WI

Stock includes icons painted

by monks on Mount Athos.

£11.50-£96; hand-painted tiles.

£5.50 each; resin busts of gods,

from £12-£135; woven tagaria

(shepherds' lunch bags),

£6.00; navy woollen fisher-

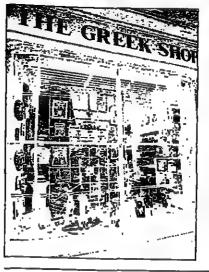
£15.95.

GREECE

(0171-437 1197)

mens' caps, £12.50.





and god of the ancient Greeks Made of resin. and finished in bronze. it is available from The Greek Shop in London (left). Above: main icon of St Christopher, £11.50, hand-made by monks. Other icons variously priced from £11.50 to £120

Anna G corkscrew, £38.50; Philippe Starck lemon squeezer. £42: champagne stopper. £52: Parmesan cheese-grater. £22.95; garlic press, £27; posta jars E!!\50-£|2.95.

Papyrus, 8 Upper Boro' Walls, Bath (01225-463418); 48 Fulham Road, London, SW3 (0171-584 8022)

Paper, cards and envelopes hand-made from pure conton rag. Ten sheets/five envelopes in folder, £8.15. Hand-sewn journals and photo albums with antiqued leather and marbled paper, from £30.

POLAND Oliver Bonas (see India) Glass made in the Krosno

factory, southern Poland includes penguin-shaped pitcher. £39: Blue Host ashtray. £29; turquoise Pamloma bowls, £14: green Latvia vase, E12; clear ship's decanter, £32.

SCANDINAVIA The Holding Company (see Victnam)

Danish home/office furniture: storage boxes from Sweden. from £4.50, and colourful bins, £28; dog-bone CD racks, £5.95.



World

MAYBE one continent is too small to express the breadth of your vision. So here is selection of emporiums and exhibitions that have the entire world as their oyster: from the snowy wastes of the Himalayas to the tropical heat of Laos, an embroidered waistcoat from Romania, Navajo silver, Nigerian indigo, rare paper. rarer kilims . . . the sun never sets on Santa's grotto.

Gordon Reece Galleries, at Finkle St and Kirkgate, Knaresborough, North York-shire (01423 866219); London gallery at 16 Clifford Street, WI (0171-439 0007)

Finkle Street gallery offers a huge choice of old or antique kilims from Turkey, Afghanistan. Arabia and abstract Gabbeh rugs from south-west Iran. Kilims from £290 (3ft x 2ft) up to £2,500. Kirkgate diery has ceramics dating from 2,500BC onwards plus African, Oceanic and Asian tribal art. Current show, Gold Frankincense & Myrrh, runs until December 24.

Indish, 13 Broadway Parade, Crouch End. London N8 (0131-340 1144) Vietnamese lacquerware.

£6.99-£39.99; sisal baskets from Kenya, from 53.99. Andalucian rugs, from £99; Italian aluminium tins, from £6.99: Turkish kilims from £140: silk cushion covers from West Bengal and India, from £74.99

Molly Hogg Textiles at Josephine Ryan Antiques, 335 Lillie Road, London SW6 (0171-381 6003)

Kente and Ewe cloths (large checked colourful woven blankets), from Ghana £400; silk embroidered door curtains from Morocco, from £120: women's headshawls from Kutch, India, E230; Turkish embroidered wedding towels, from £30; embroidered sheepskin waistcoat from Romania. £90; Tibetan striped woven and tie-dyed blankets, £370; brightly-knitted 19th-century hats from Peru, £38; 19thcentury soft cotton batik sarongs from Java, from £45. Papyrus (see Italy) Specialist papers range from

El.95 to E7 for 20cm x 30cm sheet. Stock includes plant fibre papers from banana, hemp & sedge from Kenya; cotton papers with petal and tea-leaf inclusions from India: tissues coloured with vegetable dyes from Nepal; fibrous coconut paper from Bali: original papyrus from Egypt; bark paper from Mexico; mulberry paper from Thailand, recycled



Persian rug, from the Fairman Gallery, £6,000

plant fibre papers from Malawi; traditional decorative and rakasui papers from Japan. Steve Wright Studio (see India)

Colourful kitsch with pink floor and purple walls forming a backdrop for a selection inexpensive gifts including Mexican tin boxes containing a tin nativity set, £24.99, glass slippers with floating beads, £2.90, from Taiwan; recycled chunky green wine glasses, £8.99. from Mexico: cushion covers, £9.99 from India: ; Mexican beer trays, £7.50; Indian wedding veils, £22.

World, 27 Litchfield Street.

London WC2 (0171-379 5588) The name says it all: Lenin. Chairman Mao or Karl Marx Chinese cushions, £28; Siamese temple head-dresses, £110; Burmese scorpions set in resin keyrings, £6.50; hemp jackets, E90, trousers, £70: carved and gilded buddhas. £32; African postcards, 80p. Alastair Hull, The Gallery, 18a High Street. Hadden-ham, Cambridgeshire (details 01353 740577), is holding a selling exhibition from December 6-23. Bazaar-wares include rare Tibetan prayer tables, £395; Himalayan wooden milk pots, from £60; carved churn handles, from E32; brass temple lamps from Kathmandu, from £75, clay animals. £36.50 and Buddha images from Eastern Nepal, from £4.50. Sumba and Sumatra textiles from £12.50; carved Batak medicine pots, £80. Socks, £4.25, hats, from £4, and gloves, £2.25, knined by Afghan refugees in Pakistan.

to cover socres of new and unusual to cover socres of new and unusual destinations, including Chengde, the Silt Road, Mr. Huangshan, the Yangzhe River and much more. For group and independent oravel in China, calls to the CTS Horizons Tel: 0171-836 9911 Fax: 0171-836 3121

inere street



St Moritz lets go of the reins in February with the White Turf horse races. Cricket played on snow and a gournnet festival with French food guru Paul Bocuse and fine fare from Bangkok, Delhi and Osaka, take place the same week

Wild times in the mountains of madness

DECEMBER

S ome resorts open a month earlier, but for traditionalists the skiing season does not begin until the first glass of champagne goes down at the Criterium de la Première Neige in Val d'Isère. The official occasion is four days of World Cup ski racing (December 11-14) for both men and women. But Brazilian dancers appearing at the event got more attention than the racing iasi season.

For more than 40 years, the Première Neige has been a scene where anyone who is anyone in the world of skiing has to be seen. Jean Claude Killy never misses a Première Neige, though he stipulates that the resort does not advertise his presence.

On Saturday evening, downhill racers in cowboy outfits will ride into town in Western costume on horses. Racers may then go to bed early and alone. Everyone else

Superdeals REST Wintersports Company

£319

Banff.

£179

^{B&B} £229 £209

Sat 9am-4pm Sun:10am-3pm Mon-Fri: 9am-9pm

Massive Snowfalls

FROM £159

USA/Colorado

CANADA

AUSTRIA

FRANCE

ITALY 6

3/4,10/11, 17/18 Jan

NORWAY

20.21 De

Dates 21 Dec

20-31 Dec

3-21 Jan

Dates 20-31 Dec

3-21 jan

13,20 Dec 3 Jan. 10, 17 Jan

will be in Dick's Tea-Bar getting acquainted.

• Val d'Isère tourist office: 0033 47906 0660. ITALY'S top-rated resort goes

to the dogs. Moonboots, mirror sunglasses and fur coats have never gone out of fashion in Madonna di Campiglio. Expect all to be out in force when Madonna plays host to Siberian huskies at the International Dog Sled Championships (December 20-21).

Madonna prides itself on naving more internationa events than any other Italian resort. It also has the best DJs, from Rimini and London, and nights so wild that clueless tourists miss out by going to bed before they even get going. Madonna tourist office: 0039 465 442000.

A FRENCH Christmas, like a French kiss, is nothing if not animated. Avoriaz accords itself top honours for hosting the biggest and best Christmas party in France. A poly-glot Father Christmas is set to

5479



DOUG SAGER

suge into the snowresort with reindeer and sleigh, illuminated by a backdrop of fireworks to eclipse

poor Rudolph's nose. 'Animateurs' in costumes and singing carols will circulate throughout Avoriaz, one of the best equipped resorts for families, from December 20-27. Huge fir trees decorated with lights and copious cups of free eggnog will ensure a

warm glow. Avoriaz tourist office:

0033 45074 02]]. ENJOY a night to end it all. at the most raucous and rowdy open-air New Year's Eve celebrations in the Alps. Verbier's Place Centrale turns into party central, as more than 7,000 revellers brave the cold to spray champagne over each other as the band plays from an overlooking hotel terrace and Swiss TV viewers watch the live proceedings from the safety of their armchairs. For hours the skies explode with hundreds of fireworks in a spectacle unique in Switzerland. A handful of village policemen look on in a daze as foreign tourists, many of them British, shed all inhibitions. Verbier tourist office:

JANUARY

0041 27 7753888.

When you see a polar bear VV abseiling down the side of a building into a bar, you know there is a party going on. Skiing at the Austrian resort of Mayrhofen may be intermediate, but this is a town which knows how to rock. The Ice Bar is one of the wildest in the Alps. Last year the Four Tops were there.

This year, from January 8 to 17, it is the second "Party Week in Music City". Clowns, street musicians and snowboarders get together with, as yet, nannounced top acts for a

FAMILIES plan their skiing holidays around half-term breaks. Hardcore skiers wait for breaking news of a big powder storm. And budget skiers pore over "white week" offers during the January "hole" period when the Alps are deserted, after New Year and before the February high season. But party skiers need no such contraints - they will go anywhere,

anytime for that special occasion. Some resorts, such as Mayrhofen in Austria, spend fortunes organising

elaborate events on every street corner. Other resorts, such as the exclusive St Moritz in Switzerland, have century-old traditions such as the Cresta Run toboggan races. And in some resorts, such as Verbier in Switzerland, the parties have evolved without the tourist office having spent a centime, or having a clue how to control them. Here is a short list of party possibilities to get you through the winter, including events where you do not even have to put skis to snow.



The Première Neige in Val d'Isère starts the skiing season with World Cup racing

Caribbean Pool Party at the huge indoor aqua-park and for more intimate sessions

A major snowboard jump and style event is also scheduled for this week. Seven day

B&B packages start at £!43. ◆ Reservations: 0043 5285 6721/2561.

THIS is the one Aspen party where everybody comes out. Gay Ski Week (January 24-31) is looked forward to even by

Aspen's cowboys. The ballroom of the Jerome Flotel gets a makeover, and the Aspen Ballet Company has scheduled two performances. The bars double their income. Helpline: 001 970 925 9249.

FEBRUARS !

When is a three-hour business lunch a training event? When you are booked for the St Moritz Gournnet Festival. The fifth such grande bouffe takes place this season from January 30 to February 7, culminating in a "gourmet finale" feast set out under tents on the resort's frozen lake.

France's legendary Paul Bocuse will be chief cook, but more exotic offerings from will also be on offer in the resort's hotels and mountain Other diversions during the

same week in St Moritz include a spot of cricket (January 30-31) at the tenth annual Cricket Tournament on Snow, and the White Turf horse races (February 1) on the lake. St Moritz tourist office: 0041 81 837 3333. HANNES Schneider founded

the father of all ski schools, the Arlberg, in St Anton. Now, during Ski Club Arlberg Week (February 3-10), his descendants are planning the mother of all ski classes: in a bid to make the Guinness Book of Records, the

tempt to conduct more than 2,000 skiers in close order slalom down the Valluga, to be aired live on Austrian TV. Fireworks and ice bars serving schnapps will entertain spectators, all no doubt waiting for the domino effect

Arlberg Ski School will at-

should one of the 2,000 skiers take a tumble. ● St Anton tourist office: 0043 5446 23000.

CARNIVAL or Mardi Gras is a time of craziness all over the Alps. But Kitzbühel's medieval facades are the perfect backdrop to parades of characters in funny costumes and devil

The carnival tradition is an intensely . urban one in Europe, and Kitzbühel's sophisticated nightspots cater or a wide range of tastes.

On the ski slopes, confetti is strewn and clowns wearing skis back to front career down the hills. In town, the main party days are February 23 and 24, with every bar and hotel throwing its own bash, to which no one is admitted without a masque. Kitzbühel tourist office. 0043 5356 62155.

The best parties are snow-

L boarder parties. And the in the world congregate in the Val de Bagnes, near Verbier in Switzerland, for Europe's most dangerous competition. The no-holds-barred Xtreme Snowboard contest (March 18pitches snowboarders straight down an almost unskiable mountain, the Bec year. After the heat of competition competitors chill out in the Offshore cafe/bar, with its trademark pink VW surf Beetle, then go on to the Garage to dance the night away.

● Val de Bagnes tourist office: 0041 27 7761682. COURCHEVEL, best known for its well groomed motorway pistes, is inviting budding supermodels to its Grain de Beaute (March 27-29). This is a beauty contest limited to working models, but ones not yet at their peak, with the aim of showing the "image of 1998".

• Courchevel tourist office:

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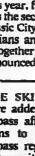
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Mar Transfer

0033 47908 0029.

E nd-of-season parties roll on throughout the Alps. once tourists are gone and resorts are left only to chalet girls and ski burns. But the crowds thronging the narrow lanes of Zermatt at 3am are waving their glasses of acid white Fendant wine for another reason. Zermatt is the start of the Glacier Patrol race. More than 1,000 marathon skiers participate in this classic trek across the peaks and glaciers from Zermatt to Verbier, 4,000 metres of uphill climbing and 4,000 metres of downhill skiing. Spectators and well-wishers spend the night of April 30 in the Swiss Alpine Club Cabane Mont Fort, drinking to their favourites.

Then they hike up to Rosablanche on skis to watch the first race teams toiling up the cruel Col de Mourti. Blazing hot sunshine at more than 3,000 metres, cowbells and more cups of the acid white Fendant wine make for a final blast that should carry you over to next season. Zermatt tourist office: 0041 279 670181.



THE SKI authorities in Verbier have added more resorts to their skipass after The Times revealed plans to reduce the size of its skipass region this season, Doug

Sager writes. Stung by its reported fall from first place among Swiss resorts to third in terms of the size of its skiing (Verbier tumbles from the Summit. November 8). Verbier has withdrawn its previous statistics and sent its pisteurs out for a recount. It has also added new resorts.

Verbier widens its horizons

The lift company Téléverbier has now decided to reverse its plans to exclude Champez Lac from this year's Four Valleys skipass, and will add two more pocket-size resorts: Fouly and Vicheres. More skiing will now be available at no price increase, although the 50km of skiing in the Thyon sector will still be cut from the Four Valleys

skipass this winter, as previously reported. Using new parameters, Téléverbier has added ten kilometres to its previously published figure of 100km around Verbier. With the addition of Champex, Fouly and Vichères, and

some "newly found" kilometres in

the Nendaz sector, the Four Valleys

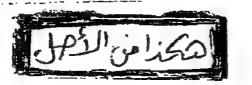
now makes an official, revised

claim to 360km of skiing and 85 ski lifts, down from last year's claim of 400km and 100 lifts.

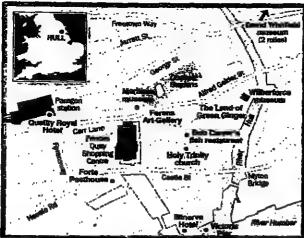
It should be noted that Verbier counts 22km of skiing at Super St. Bernard, some 45 minutes away on the Italian border, as part of its Four Valleys total, although this is only available for an extra SF23, up from SF14 last year.



Verbier: more regions added



Where the streets are paved with fish



In Hull, Stephen McClarence traces the steps of a bard and balladeer and finds relief in Edwardian splendour

he lace camisoles are a delight. The snagresistant towelling bathrobes are, in their homely way, quite stunning. But the first Marks & Spencer ladies' lingerie de-partment to be celebrated in verse is an odd place for a literary pilgrimage.

Mind you, Hull, at first

glance, seems an odd place for a pilgrimage of any kind. Thanks partly to Philip Larkin — poet of provincial melan-choly and the reason we're eyeballing camisoles in M&S its name unavoidably suggests log-bound glumness. Larkin, Hull University's librarian for 30 years, thought

Hull "a place where only salesmen and relations come". Not any more. Not if Hull can help it. The city — once England's leading seaport. now lamed for its ferries to Europe — has launched an ambitious campaign to spruce up its image and attract visitors. There is everything to

Jur research has told that many people have no image at all of Hull," admits Jonathan Levy of CityVision, a private-public sector partner-ship with a whilf of civic

evangelism about it. The news agenda tends to be fish, crime, John Prescott he's MP for Hull East - and obscure things like the Docks Lahour Scheme. There's little awareness of other things."

Other things like the regenerated marina, the shops, the museums and galleries - and, further down the whimsy list, award-winning public loos. the David Whitfield Museum and a Sea Shanty Festival featuring the Battle of Trafalgar recreated by two actors.

"We're quite a well-kept secret," says Pete Allen, Hull Council's head of tourism.

Il the same, 90,000 visitors passed through the doors of Line city's tourist information centre two years ago. A third were from abroad - mostly Holland, Belgium and Germany. And this year, says Allen, they're on course for 160,000.

Tourism in Hull? Sexy weekend breaks by the Humber Estuary? The image-spinners nod without an iota of irony. Come and see, they say.

The most scene-setting way to do so is on the train, along the top of the Humber. It gives a startling sense of Hull's remoteness, out on a limb of East Yorkshire, low and flat and on the way to nowhere except other countries.

On foggy days, first impres sions aren't encouraging. The seagulls hunch on the estuary

But on a fine, crisp, winter's day, the sunlight can be dazzling and the sense of open space exhiltrating. The light glints on the water and gives it a mother-of-pearl sheen. The skies are huge, the Humber Bridge looms like a mirage, gulls swoop and the only people you see for mile after

swallowing sailors.

other poets - Andrew Marvell and Stevie Smith were born here, Douglas Dunn and An-

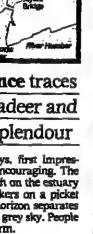
Between the Register Office and the Artificial Limb Unit is the David Whitfield Memorial Garden

drew Motion have lived here - but only Larkin has his own

it takes in a foot-slogging 44 places where he lived and worked. Stop No 9 is his favourite Chinese restaurant (New Hoi Sun; three-course lunch: £4.50; prawn cocktail £1 extra). Stop No 7: the White Hart pub, where he played his Pee Wee Russell records to the Hull Jazz Record Society. The trail's author, Jean

Harriey, a former college lecturer, was a friend of Larkin's for 30 years and, with her exhusband George, his publisher in the 1980s. "At first he seemed very formal and formidable," she recalls. "His posh voice was very intimidating. But it was partly nervousness. When he went to railway stations as a young man, be used to write the name of the station he wanted to go to on a piece of paper and hand it to the booking clerk, rather than

Later, in the 1960s, he was intrigued by the Marks & Spencer carrier bags his staff bring back to the



mud like strikers on a picket line. A grey horizon separates grey sea from grey sky. People button up warm.

mile are dog-walkers.

Hull's Paragon Station is very much the end of the line. Its great arching canopies swallow trains like a whale

The station, with a barber's booth offering face massage and dry shampoos, is the starting point for the Philip Larkin Trail, Hull has had



Allen from Tourism. Three dozen carvings of fish once regularly caught in Hull's waters - turbot, whitebait, gurnard, lumpsucker, zander - are embedded in pavements and walls. They start with a shoal of bronze anchovies splaying out from the tourist information centre and lead a trail round the old town, the focus of the armual Sea Shanty Festival, held every September (if you have a

beard, wear it). The old town is a pleasant area with an air of bustling revival. Its marina bristles with boats called Shenandoah. Dawn Bird and First Love. Wine bars and restaurants line cobbled alleys. There are warehouses, trim colourwashed Georgian town houses, a street called The Land of Green Ginger, a Victorian arcade painted as pink-and-white as nougat ... and the Edwardian public loos

alongside Victoria Pier. They are among Hull's unsung tourist attractions, little temples of sanitation, palaces of cream porcelain, and 1996 winners of the national Golden Loo Brush Awards.

The brass pipes are mirrorpolished, the Art Nouveau scrollwork immaculately painted. The ported palms and hanging baskets of geraniums make them look more like conservatories than lavatories. "People come from all over

the world - Canada, America,

Japan," says relief attendant

John Harrison. "A few months

ago, we had four coachloads of

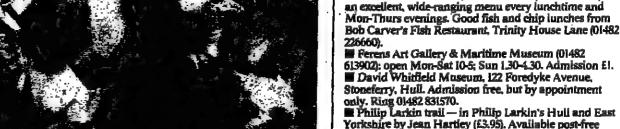
whaling gallery dominated by the 40ft skeleton of a Southern Right Whale (it was called a because it was the right one to catch). The displays show the



Guinness workers and their wives come to have a look." More mainstream tourist attractions are just round the corner. Holy Trinity Church, the biggest parish church in England, is built on a cathedral-like scale. Seagulis circle its tower, whose chiming clock is one of 700 wound by Hull's Civic Clock Custodian. Downstairs, a stock clearance sale is offering prayer cards in Dutch at knockdown prices - 20p

down to IOp.
Step outside, over the grave-stone of Nathaniel Boddy, and turn right and left, noting the Fish Pavement mackerel, 10 the Ferens Art Gallery -stylish and friendly, with a rotunda gallery almost casualpacked with paintings by yndham Lewis, William Roberts and Paul Nash.

Across the square is the Maritime Museum, with a 'Right Whale", says a caption.



■ Philip Larkin trail — in Philip Larkin's Hull and East Yorkshire by Jean Hartley (£3.95). Available post-free from the publishers, Hutton Press, 130 Canada Drive, Cherry Burton, Beverley, East Yorkshire (01964 550573).

Hull Tourist Information Centre, 1 Paragon Street, Fruil (01482 223559).

m-Thurs even

HULL FACT FILE

Hull has good rall links to Doncaster, which is on the

London-Edinburgh main line. A saver return from Doncaster to Hull, valid for one month, costs £14.30; you must travel after 9.30am. Details: 0345 484950. By road,

take the M62, then the .163.

Hotels: Forte Posthouse. Hull Marina (01482 225221) has rooms at £89 (single or double) room-only. Quality Royal Hotel, Ferensway (01482 325087) charges from £66.55 single, £80.25 double, room-only.

Food: Minerva Hotel, Nelson Street (01482 326909) has

. Good iish and ch



with a rounda gallery almost casually packed with paintings by Wyndham Lewis, William Roberts and Paul Nash.

Lavatorial luxury: temples of sanitation that won the national Golden Loo Brush Awards

commercial versatility of whale parts, including a crib-bage board made from a jawbone. Whale calls shrick around the gallery. It's now late afternoon and

choices must be made. The

Whitfield Museum, dedicated to the Hull-born Fifties crooner? No contest. Whitfield (1926-80), famed

William Wilberforce Muse-

um, dedicated to Hull's slavewidely commemorated across the city. There's a David Whitfield Close, a David abolishing son? Or the David Whitfield Maternity Ward, a David Whitfield Memorial Garden - a pocket patch of

for his hit single Cara Mia, is

pink roses next to the dual carriageway, between the Register Office and the Artificial Limb Unit

But he's most spectacularly remembered at Bill Wilkins's bungalow. Bill is membership secretary of the DW Appreciation Society (240 members) and has built a museum in a garage extension around the back. It's a shrine to a singer Bill describes as "like Josef

Locke - only better." Scattered among 300 pinned-up photos are theatre bills ("Top billing at the Chis-wick Empire over Morecambe and Wise"), car number plates (DW 100) and an unexpected range of Whitfield's bathroom accessories - lino floor, two wash basins (pink and grey). toothbrush holder."Look, here's a fragment of his curtains," says Bill. "And we've had a star named after him the David Whitfield Star."

He puts Cara Mia on the stereo and Whitfield's high tenor voice soars over the neat back gardens. It is a moment of pure Hull.

Hit film's bare facts boost Sheffield



On the terraces: The Full Monty focused on scenes of urban decay

COME to Montyland. Gasp at the male strippers. Gawp at the red satin G-strings. Shout "Gerrem off!" and see if they do. And then hit the derelict steelworks trail.

It hasn't happened yet, but it could. The Full Monty, with its dancing dole queues and bleak urban decay, has had some unlikely tourist spin-offs for Sheffield.

Shot on location in the city, it's the most successful British film of all time. It has made Sheffield famous throughout the world for something other than steel (still made there) and world snooker (still played there). But not everyone is happy with all this attention. Some Sheffielders feel the film's grim setting is harming the city's image and handing Northern stereotypes to Southern audiences on a grubby, ketchup-stained plate.

People always say what a horri-ble place Sheffield looks in the film." says Lee Illman, assistant manager at the Warner Village Cinema in the Meadowhall shopping complex two miles from the city centre. "People I talk to in the South say. I'm not coming up there. It looks disgusting.

All that poverty." "I accept that The Full Monty makes Sheffield look grotty," says Jon Pyle, head of communications at Destination Sheffield, the city's tourism promotion bureau. "But that's

not the most important thing." The film, he says, has generated enormous tourist potential by a curiously roundabout route. "Journalists are asking 'Is Sheffield really as grotty as it looks?", so we invite them here and show them the exciting things that are happening." He takes them to the city's international-standard swimming pool and its Ski Village — on a hillside once dominated by terraced houses.

He shows them the developing National Centre for Popular Music, part of an ever-expanding youthand-media culture. He points out that the Peak District - with some of England's most dramatic landscape - starts just five miles from the city centre.

The film has got people talking about Sheffield to an extent that no amount of paid-for advertising could have done," he says. "It's been positive in a way that nobody could have predicted."

But has it proved a big boost to tourism? Coachloads of Japanese tourists, on rouse from Stratford to York? Too early to say, says Jon Pyle - but we're ready for the coach parties - even though I don't think we're going to set up Montyland, or

a Full Monty trail." A pity. Tourists could join the screaming women at one of the male strip shows run by Dave Bacon's agency Prime Cuts, so called

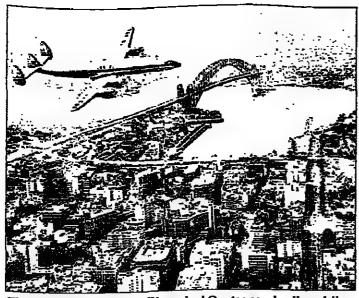
because the boys are best meat". STEPHEN MCCLARENCE

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The first Qantas flight from Sydney to London, 50 years ago this week, took an exhausting 94 hours, reports Steve Keenan



Strewth, we've come a long way



would be able to make 12 return journeys for the 1997 equivalent of the price they

paid in 1947. While flying has indeed shrunk the world - the journey took four days back then - the cost of flying

has also shrunk proportionately.

Those first Qantas passengers paid £525 to accompany 11 crew. 34,000 letters and one ton of food parcels (including 500) Christmas plum puddings) to postwar Britain. he country was suffering a dreadful winter, made worse by a chronic fuel shortage, and the food parcel gesture was typical of Australian regard for what many, in

country. The airfare, at a time when the average weekly wage in Australia was just E7, was equivalent to the cost of an average house Down Under. Given inflation during the past 50 years of more than 2,000 per cent, a 1947 return on the Kangaroo route would top £11.100 at today's prices.

The flights were so expensive because the Constellation aircraft cost about £500,000 to make. It was considerably slower than any of today's jets, so its overheads per passenger were high.

The price of a standard economy return with Qantas today is 5849. while this week charter operator Austravei was offering rock-bottom returns to Australia of just £299.

pioneering passengers landed in London aboard the new



Passengers aboard the maiden flight paid £525 each, equivalent to the cost of a house; they shared the plane with 500 Christmas puddings to sustain postwar Britain

Qantas aircraft on December 5, 1947. after a 12,000-mile journey lasting 94 hours.

The marathon trip took in Sydney, Darwin, Singapore (overnight stop), Calcutta, Karachi (overnight), Cairo (overnight) and Tripoli. Air/ground links were via radio and Morse code, with three pilots.

and a radio officer on board. Three stewards - there were no stewardesses then - served a choice of fish, chicken or beef. Meals were frozen and shipped to

airports en route.

Qantas carried Australian wines from the start. But after one trip, Richard Casey, the Australian Minister for External Affairs, complained that there was no French cellar. One advanced feature of the Constellation was bunk beds which Qantas plans to reintroduce

on flights next year.

That flight marked the postwar beginnings of Qantas as a leading airline. Within a few years it became one of the ten biggest air

Today's 747-400 aircraft, carrying 400 passengers, can fly nonstop in 20 hours, although commercial services stop over in the Far East, adding three hours to the journey time. If a Constellation and a 747-400 left Sydney at the same time, the 747 would be landing in London as the Constella-

The departure of the Constellation on December 1, 1947, was the first all-Qantas service to Britain after the airline's parmership with Imperial Airways, a forerunner of

British Airways, dissolved, Ironically, Qantas and BA are now partners again. Bying 80 services a week hetween Britain and Australia.

The Christmas escape

HOLIDAYMAKERS wanting to get away from the pressures of Christmas are clamouring to spend a week or two on growth in charter flights to Cuba and the Dominican Republic has fuelled demand for a more exotic Christmas than the traditional resorts in

Two High Street travel agents, Going Places and fied the Caribbean as the place to be this Christmas, with Going Places reporting sales third only to the Canaries and mainland Spain.

And independent agents are reporting similar demand. Andy Szepietwoski, manager of central London agency Avant-Garde Travel, said: 'Cuba and the Dominican Republic have taken off. People are being more adventurous and their budgets have increased. The Caribbean is good value and they are choosing to fly further rather than spend £600 for a lastminute Christmas break to Tenerife." More than 3.5 mil-

> TOP TEN FOR WINTER SUN

Canary Islands Mainland Spain Caribbean Florida France Balearic Islands **Portugal** Cyprus North-west Africa

Italy Source: Going Places

reconsider a decision to in-

crease its departure tax from

EIZ to £60 following com-

plaints that it would amount

to a tourist "rip-off". Tom

The tax was due to take

effect next month, but the

Brazilian Tourist Office now

says it is unlikely that foreign

tourists will be charged. Bra-

zilian nationals will, however,

have to pay the tax.

Although a final decision

Chesshyre writes.

The Caribbean looks very

tempting, says Steve Keenan

lion people took a winter sun from three million in 1995/96. running at a further 18 per cent increase, according to Thomas Cook, precipitating a

with Thomas Cook. And sales to its biggest rivals, the Canaries, Spain, Florida and France, are up by 19 per cent

People pay an average £440 to escape the winter blues in Britain, with Spain accounting for half the market. But the biggest jump in demand is in holidays to the Caribbean and Florida, which reflects Britons' flourishing taste for exotic winter getaways.

now accounts for half of the total market for all-inclusive maica and St Lucia are the next most popular destina-tions in the Caribbean. Mexico has also doubled its

numbers, with Hong Kong, Vietnam and India - the resort of Goa in particular all showing sharp increases. The number of Britons flying

by 10 per cent to 380,000 in the last year. "The difference in price between a reasonable hotel in the Canaries and one in Goa is closing all the time," said Mike Beaumont, head of commercial activity at Thom-Customers flocking to the

shops in January to buy

summer holidays will see a new name on the high streets: cies, including around 400 in the AT Mays chain, decided this week to adopt the name. Independent agencies will add "Worldchoice" to their existing name, and AT Mays branches will be known as Carlson Worldchoice, named after the group's American owners...



Guaranteed sun and cheaper prices have boosted the Caribbean's popularity

Protests have forced Brazil to shelve plans for a 400 per cent increase in departure tax



Heading for the Frisco Bay? British Airways Holi-days (0990 224224) is offering a seven-night fly-drive from £349 per person. With departures every day this week until Friday from Heathrow to San Francisco, the price includes airport taxes and third-party

Catch up with Santa in Sweden. Travelscene (0181-427 4445) is offering three nights' B&B at one of Stockholm's six Scandic Hotels and a day trip to Santaworld, including a buffet and the "Waiting for Santa" show. Return flights from Heathrow, leaving on Thursday, transfers and taxes are also included in the price which starts at £595 for adults and £350 for under-12s.

☐ Feeling pale? Take advantage of Last Stop Holiday Shop's (0541 503400) Cyprus offers. Departing on Wednesday from Luton, seven nights' self-catering accommodation, allocated on arrival, costs from £99 per person, based on four sharing, including flights, tax and transfers, or £119 per person, based on two sharing, departing on Sunday from Manchester.

☐ If bracing country air appeals, head for Wood Hall (01937 587271) in Wetherby, West Yorkshire, where badger watching, fishing, hawking, shooting and guided walks are on offer. Dinner, bed and breakfast costs £85 per person per night, based on a minimum two-night stay; activities cost extra, and must be arranged in advance.

£398 AB Alrimet (av-Gazwick) £198 BA from £138 Debone v/£390wa B/ £992 BA £239 8A from £178 Debonel EZISK BA

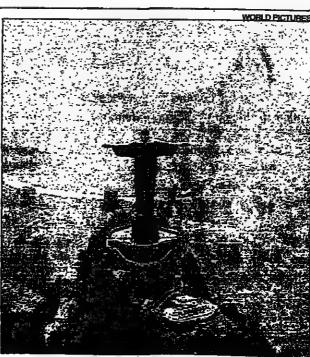
AB Ablines 0345 464748 tish Airways (BA) 0345 222111

the Christmas

crowds and do your Christ-mas shopping in Islanbul Treasures of Turkey (0171-494 2292) is offering three nights' B&B at the Hotel Hali, in the central Sultan Ahmet area, from £169 per person, including a half-day sightseeing tour, return flights, transfers and airport taxes, leaving on Tuesday from Gatwick. A four-night trip leaving Gatwick on Friday costs from £189 per person.

☐ See Gaudi's flamboyant work in Barcelona with Sovereign Cities (0990 768373). Two nights' B&B at the Hotel Cataluna, which is located just off the famous La Rambla. costs from £292 per person, including return flights and taxes but not transfers. Departures are every day this week from Gatwick, Heathrow, Birmingham, Bristol or Manchester.

JOANNA HUNTER



Choose your virtual holiday

CHILDREN versed in computers will soon be able to chure on CD, writes Steve

Eurocamp is to launch its main camping and mobile home brochure on CD on December 22. Only Virgin Holidays' ski brochure has previously appeared in the same format. According to marketing director Mark Hammerton, nearly half of Eurocamp's 100,000 customers are families who own personal computers with CD facilities at home.

The brochure will allow home browsers to take virtual walks around a mobile home and view stills of the sites. Video clips will follow.

It also allows people to price their own holiday, combining the site price with variables such as ferry fares, stop-over hotels or Disneyland tickets. Theoretically, the CD could replace holiday brochures. With CDs costing roughly 30p eachto produce and brochures more than El. tour operators as well as conservationisis would be happy.

But in its fist year.

Eurocamp is producing just 30,000 free CDs and 200,000 brochures (01565 626262).

Fruitful ferry crossing

7.5

2.27 4.35

CARGO ferry, carrying Christmas fruit and veg from Spain to British supermarkets will also be used to carry passengers this winter, Steve Keenan writes.

Brittany Ferries is offering space to 200 holidaymakers on the Barfleur, which will open ate weekly between Poole and Santander until March. The ship replaces the Val de Loire. Although the ferry will be

taking 65 trucks of satsumas to the UK, holidaymakers will have en suite cabins two restaurants, bar, cinema and duty-free shops. Fares start at £213 return for a car and two

The only change to ferry schedules this winter is the axing of the Ramsgate-Dunkirk route by Holyman Sally ferries. It now operates only. the Ramsgate-Ostend route.



Time to back down in Rio

has yet to be made, tour operators are claiming an important victory against a worldwide trend of rising departure taxes and visa prices. For example, Britain has recently doubled Air Passenger Duty to £10 on flights to European countries and £20 long-haul destinations, and Kenya has just introduced

a E35 visa fee. "The Brazil tax increase represented a 400 per cent rise and would have clobbered tourists," said Brian Williams, director of Journey Latin America, which specialises in holidays to Brazil. Taxes and visa charges have been increasing dramatically across the world over the past four

years, so we are glad that it seems as though a country has finally seen sense."

This week the Brazilian Tourist Office - which has acted as a go-between for operators and the Government - admitted that the £60 charge would have been "totally outrageous".

A spokesman, who predicted that the increase could have reduced the number of foreign visitors by as much as 60 per cent, said: "We are trying to attract tourists, not put them off. The Government has now heard the arguments against the tax rise and all the indications are that it will not apply to tourists."

Tour operators hope that



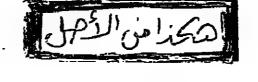
Pakistan - £40 Vietnam - £40 Kenya - £35 Oman - £30 Jordan - £27 China - £25 India - £19 Source: Passport Service

the U-turn will send a warning signal to other countries considering increasing tourist entry and departure charges. The Association of British Travel Agents (ABTA), which represents both operators and agents, said: "It's important that we fight these increases. British tourists spend millions of pounds abroad each year. so we have a strong bargaining position."

worldwide surge in visa and departure taxes is compounded by local hotel, sales and other taxes that can increase the cost of travel alarmingly. Last month, Kenya intro-

duced a stiff new charge: a £35 entry visa. The Kenyan High Commission argues that this was a fair response to Britain's decision last year to bring in a £33 visa for Kenyans visiting





WORLD A WEEKEND GUIDE FOR SINGLES



ILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVELTIPS

Go bananas at sea

v Keenan

CONVENTIONAL cruise companies have all but forgotten single travellers, for whom prices may not even be quoted in the brochures. Singles are fobbed off with phrases such as prices are available on request". This should set the alarm bells ringing as most modern liners have only double cabins, with hefty charges for single occupancy.

Cargo-boat cruises, however, where passengers are the financial icing on the cake rather than the raison d'être, rarely carry such punitive extras; the passenger cargo ship journeys of Strand Voyages (0171-836 6363) carry no supplements at all others have supplements at all: others levy only small extra charges.

For example, an exotic 110-day round-trip to the South Pacific from Dunkirk, with 18 ports of call, will cost each of the ten passengers £7,785.

And on the Fyffes banana boat run from Portsmouth to Suriname and Guyana, six passengers will pay £1,980 each for the 38-day round trip. The same trip, at the same price, is also available through Fyffes agents, Cargo Ship Voyages (01473 736265).



Cargo ship cruise: travel the orld on a banana boat

Lone rangers

WHEN it comes to tour operators. single travellers have to surf the brochures to find supplement-free departures - and even these are often hedged in with "limited availability conditions or offseason dates

Long-haul specialist Kuoni (brochure requestiine 07000 458664) states clearly that almost 70 of its hotels offer special deals for singles, although the number of single rooms is limited. At Ari Beach, the escapist "no shoes" island in the Maldives, singles pay no supplements from April 13 to November 1 (the rainy season September). A half-board week including flights costs from £649, extra nights from £22.

Virgin Holidays (01293 562944) uffers a small collection of hotels

in Orlando, Miami and Key West; with prices from £449 which covers flights, car hire (excluding insurance and taxes), or transfers, and seven nights' hotel accommo-dation in Kissimmee.

Singles who fainty playing the Lone Ranger can also take a holiday on a dude ranch (riding but with other activities and entertainments), or on a working raich with opportunities to help with branding cattle rountiups and fence merating. The Spanish Springs Guest Ranch and the Jim Marr Working Ranch, both in California cost from £1.350 for two weeks with flights and meals, but without car hire.

In its new programme Journeys of Discovery, Abercrombie & Kenr (0171-730-9600) offers 13 escorted tours to Africa, Egypt, Syria, Jordan and India. Groups are limited to 18, with single places at no extra cost. If you book early enough, you should be able to bag a tent for yourself on the nine. a tent for yourself on the nine night Classic Tented safari to Kenya, visiting Samburu, Mount Kenya and Masai Mara. Prices start at £1,898, including flights

travel with Travel Companions will arrange introductions to prospective sharers. The service is for people aged 25 to 75 and costs £50. Send: an SAE to: 110 High Mount, Shokus Road, London NW4 35T (0181-202 8478):

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Ride em cowboy: single travellers will not be lonely on a working ranch in the USA, with the chance to help with branding, cattle round-ups and fence mending

Single minded

WE HAVE sexism, racism and goodness knows what other isms - what about singleism?" asks Jean Jewell, who founded the Single Travellers Action Group (STAG) three years ago, having experienced the discriminatory treatment meted out to lone travelers after the death of her husband.

Now the group has 3,000 members who receive three newsletters a year with information on tour operators, hotels and organis-ations which give discounts or have special arrangements for singles. In co-operation with Saga Holidays, STAG also organises its own trips: a week's full-board in Playa de Palma in Majorca next April will cost £409 including flights and three excursions.

For more information, send an SAE to: Single Travellers Action Group, Church Lane, Sharnbrook. Bedford MK44 1HR.

NEAL'S YARD Agency for Personal Developme (07000 783 704), although not exclusively for singles, does manage to attract a large number on its holistic holidays and in order to avoid single

encouraged to share rooms. Nearly everyone arrives alone at Atsitsa, the Skyros Holidays Centre on the Greek island of that mame, but the agency claims that the different activities yoga, dance, creative writing and windsurfing — and the

community atmosphere make it easy to find friends. Prices start at £495 for two weeks' full-board. and six activities, excluding flights. The season runs from May to October. At Huzur Vadisi in southwest

Turkey, there are courses in massage, tai ji or yoga, or you can relax and do your own thing. The price of £325 includes a week's in beard, course fees

and shared accommodation in a yurt (a traditional-style nomadic hut) but no flights. Without the courses the cost is £265. Single occupancy of a yort will cost an extra E50.

Card parties



THE over-50s specialist Saga (0800 300500) organises house-party type holidays for single people in the UK

and abroad where hosts organise games, quizzes, dances and excursions for groups of 20 to 50 people. There are also a number of special interest breaks including bridge, computer courses, dancing, gardens, Scrab-ble and walking. There are no

single room supplements. Single holidaymakers who prefer to travel without the partying might prefer the less organised "singles-only departures". For ex-

ample, on a tour to Romania, visiting the Carpathian Mountains and Count Dracula's castle. the weeks beginning April 18 and October 10 are reserved for single

travellers. The cost is £449 and £459 respectively, for half-board and flights. FROM long weekends in Britain and golfing bolidays in Spain to tours of Papua New Guinea, Solo's Holidays is Britain's largest tour operator for single travellers (0181-951 2800). For 1998, the age

groups have been altered to reflect changing attitudes. The 30-49 group in the brochure becomes 28-55, and 50-69 expands to 45-69. A week's half-board in Rhodes, for example, which costs from £399 in May, rising to £529 in August, carries no single supplement. A nine-day northern India tour in May costs £969 sharing, £1,119 if you want a

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Time for action

LASTING Impressions (0161-499) 3971) runs UK breaks "with a party spirit" for those aged 30 to 65 and charges no single supplements. Many of the breaks are themed around wine-tasting, sport, racing, jazz or rambling.

A two-night Grand National break in April costs £159 for halfboard accommodation with wine, tickets for Aintree and evening entertainment. Acom Activities (01432 830083) says that action, and lots of it, is the common denominator that bonds its singles groups of largely 35 to 45-year-olds. The firm offers a number of single holidays, all without supplements. Activity weeks based at Abergavenny in July and August include absciling and climbing. mountain biking, pony-trekking and kayaking. They cost £495 for half-board hotel accommodation, instruction and picnic lunches.

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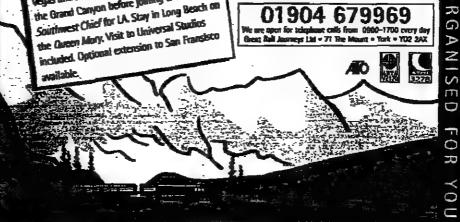
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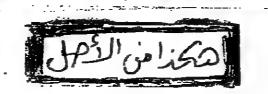
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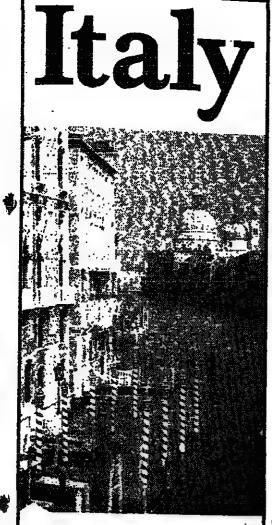
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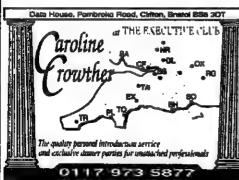
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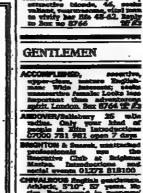
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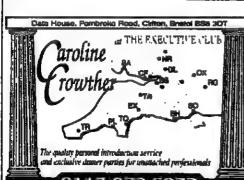
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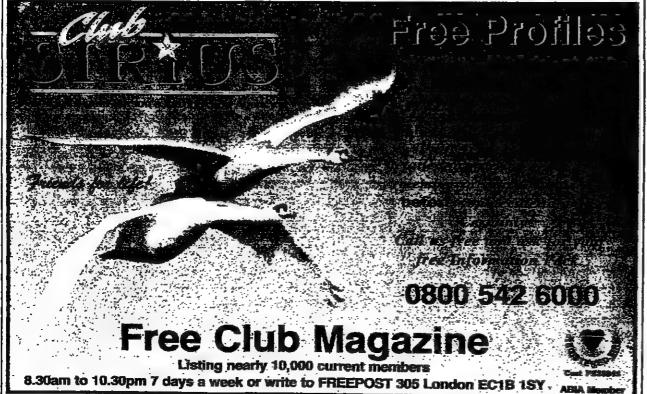
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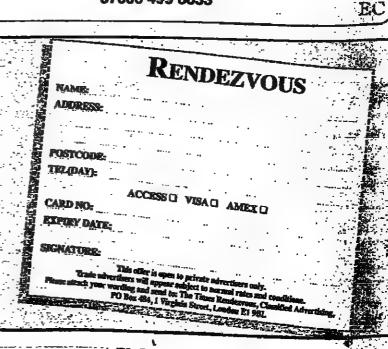
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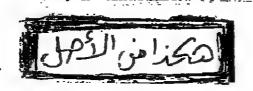
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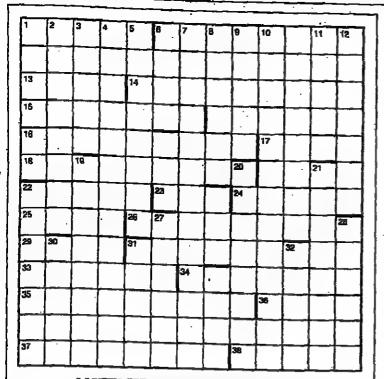
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across and eight down clues are normal, but have answers jumbled before entry in the diagram, In remaining clues, one word has been jumbled: the answers are entered normally.

ACROSS

- The Argo? See 6, perhaps (5).
- The Cargonauts -- trouble-makers taking
- 13 Logic circuits with choice of pole (4).
- 14 Colder sky disturbed yetis (9).
- Maybe setters unbutton in good German society (7).
- 16 Buttered mix drips on stove (9).
- Norse books: some recommended reads (4).
- Prisoner of war wearing black eye -
- magenta? (9).
- 22 Could be following reverse bid (5). 23 Feature of case, topless cast (3).
- 24 Cook stew that is dismai (5).
- 25 Outstanding teak tree (4).
- 26 Certain tobacco stocks triple after shows (9).
- 29 Wager about Queen Vic's husband? (4). I resent beginning an order (6).
- 34 Drapery, short one, fashionable (7).
- Sailor born at sea owns glider (%),
- Editor heard deer (4).
- Blemishes indeed in affected English rose (8). 38 Sunburnt old Judge leaves later (5).

STANGPHYSIICK
EAAN!LEXIQUEEN
AMBLEDTUMYNA
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surroundings are threatened. Hu-

man debris and toxins being

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- Young fish, small aplastic anglers (b).
- Half cops at present stick together (8).
- Guys, rouged, in wings (5).
- Unbearably burning issue about yellow cots (13).
- Bardic Constable, unterly swell (8).
- Lecturer, one mad about N E England print (13).
- Modest object: first in examination (6).
- Admirer of knight hugs younger sculptor (5).
- 10 Grandee could store one iade? (13).
- Anodyne Irish fly (5).
- Grand gallery described by expert (7).
- The Baltimore ballet (8).
- With arms spread in conjugal union (S).
- Currency: peruse exchanged finesse (5).
- 22 Ignored crazy boaster (?).
- Post of principal is nasty: gets one such icy
- 28 Josh's item for afternuon service (6).
- 30 A game, capturing desert emus (5).
- 31 Disorders of the gentleman's back, tedious (5).
- 32 Applaud, one hears, a round at Pebble Beach (5).

Potiores? by Petti

Difficiliores lectiones posiores? Preferred readings spell "keys inside it" down the diagonal. Redundant words and, where appropriate, the preferred and the rejected readings

ACROSS: 1. Take 5. Orderly: physics 10. Rings 11. Evicts: queen, queen 13. Sedation 15. Old; myna, mina 16. Living 18. Vacancy: hasn't, haunt 20. Extra 21. Name: lei, let 22. Unsavoury 24. Mudel 25. Early: pence, peace 26. Runic 27. Office 29. Unusual; pasch, parch 32. Spenserian 34. Aggression 36. Motor; ion, don 37 Buchanalian 39. In; indra, intra 40. Ghetto 41. Underneath; alee, aloe 43. Inflicted 45. Toddle; sides. To; sedes 46. Initiative 47. Easy; tellers, sellers 48. Script

DOWN: 1. Something 2. Contains 3. Anomalous 4. New 5. Desiring a. Island 7. Atomic: centos, cantos 8. Ground; knap, snap 9. Relative 11. Agitate, quaich. Augment; quatch 12. Mag; eyne. Many; eine 14. Fanc: TELLERS ASPEN then: thea 17. Out: popped, popper 19. Real: spends, upends 23. Kept 25. Eavesdropping; paires, pudres 26. Young 28. Secret; builte: builte 30. It: sour, roar 31. Needs 33. Suffers 35. Intimate; dens, dons 37. Distressed 38. Empire: past, pass 42. Intensity 44. Tulerable

The winner is: P. Ruff of Hampshire. The five runners-up are: A. Pearson of Perth, Tayside: 8. Widger of Cheshire: M. Gantier of Walton-on-Thames. Surrey; P. Allwright of Hampshire and R. Stone of Worcester.

by Robert Sheehan

•KJ32

♣A 105

Wesi

15

48

BRIDGE

WHAT do you make of the last bid in each of these auctions?

4 C

A) 1H B) 1D 3S 1 H

In the first auction, if East had a good club suit and a strong hand he would start with Three Clubs over West's One Hearr; in the second auction. West would show a good hand with diamonds and spades by rebidding Two Spades over East's One Heart response. So the extra jump shows some other type of

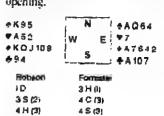
hand, and most players nowadays use it as a "Splinter Bid". In auctions in which a single jump in a new suit would be forcing, a double jump shows at least fourcard support for purtner's suit and shortage (usually a singleton but sometimes a void) in the bid suit. and a game-going hand. Splinters makes use of a bid not required for any other purpose -- the hallmark of an efficient bidding agreement. They help determine whether the hands fit well for slam purposes. A typical East hand for the first

auction would be: ◆A42♥KJ753+A654◆5 In the second sequence West will have something like

444AQ75+AJ654+AK3 A splinter by responder usually occurs after an opening hid of one of a major. The hand should have around 11-14 points in high cards. and no good side suit. An example sequence is shown here.

West can see his diamond holding of KJxx is facing a singleton so signs off in Four Spades. If East's minorsuit holdings are reversed he starts with Four Clubs over One Spade; West can see the hands fit well and can make slam tries.

To splinter in response to a minorsuit opening the responder needs to be stronger than over a major-suit



 Splinter, showing good diamond support and a singleton heart. 2) Showing strength in spades

6 D (5)

Cue-bids, 4) At this point he has done enough. SI With the queen of spades useful opposite West's presumed king he is full value for slam.

Next week in the daily column in Sport I will be giving further examples of auctions involving splinter bids.

WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 👫 RHYSSA

(b) An ichneumon of the genus so called, the members of which prey upon the larvae of wood-horing insects, especially in conifers, and are usually black with white face and markings. The Greek word means "wrinkly".

(a) In Finland, a short poem or song on an epic or legendary subject. Specifically, one of the songs which together constitute the Kalevala.

(a) A kind of Cambodian sarong. French adaptation of the Cambodi-

5 D (4)

(c) In full gin pahit, gin and bitters. In Malay pahit = bitter. "There was the cuphoria of foresecing ourselves in Maugham fiction white-ruxedoed dinner-parties, the fans turning on the ceiling, gin pahits on the veranda, humid adultery behind the jalousies."

TWO BRAINS

From page 36

Ovestion 1: 29. The number is reached through the sum of alpha position (A + I.B + 2 etc). first kerer plus the square of alpha position for the second letter. Thus T = 20 and C = 3, $20 = 3^{\circ} = 29$ Question 2:

the money-spinner. As its title

suggests. The Futility of the Lottery

(http://www.cgsystems.co.uk/futile.

index.htm) aims to knock the nation's get-rich-quick scheme for

six with an intriguing experiment.

Twice a week 10,000 new random

selections are theoretically entered

for the draws. The results make

interesting reading. In a bad week.

the imaginary £10,000 stake nets a

profit of between £300 and £600.

while the average return on the stake is said to be £2.699.43. Only

three times since February has the

experiment produced wins exceed

ing £10.000 - for £11.546, £14.504

CHESS

by Raymond Keene

GOETHE wrote that chess was "the touchstone of the intellect". Lenin added that chess was "the gymnasium of the mind, while Leibnitz approved of "rational games, since they helped to perfect the art of thinking

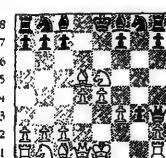
A little nearer home Shakespeare, too, had an acquaintance with chess and has Ferdinand and Miranda playing a game on stage in The Tempest.

However, none of these great minds actually has an authentic game recorded, unlike Tolstoy, several of whose games have come down to posterity.

This week I give two chessboard encounters by the author of War and Peace and Anna Karenina. White: Count Leo Tolstoy; Black: Aylmer Maud

King's Gambit Accepted

#Bb 2 ... 4 Bc4 ... 45 Qh4+ 6 Kf1 ... 45 f3 8 gxf3 ... 10 d4 e4 Nf3 Bxd5 f3 Ke1 g3



abcdefgh White's opening has been too risky and here Black could win with 10 ... Qg2.

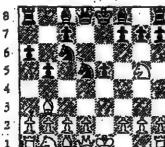
10 ... 92 After this error White succeeds in first stopping, and then rounding Black's passed g-pawn, after which his own counter-attack is

victorious. 11 Rg1 Qh4+ 12 Ke2 Nh6 13 Rxq2 c6 14 Bxh6 cxd5 13 Rxg2 c6 15 Bxf8 Kxf6 Kx18 16 Qe1 Qe7 17 Nc3 txe5 20 Qg7+

19 Qq3 A neat irony, of which the great novelist himself would doubtless have approved. White's winning move is a mir-

20 ... Ke8 21 Oxh8+

White: Aylmer Mand; Black: Count Leo Tolstoy Rossim 1909 Ray Lopez



known to be risky for Black on account of the following sacrifice

3 Bc4 Nf6 4 Ng5 d55 exd5 Nxd5 and

now 6 Nxi7.

10 ... Noe7 is best. Putting the question to black's entire rickety structure.

with a clear conscience.

16 Bxd5+Kb8 17 Bxb7 Rxb7 18 d3 Ka7 19 Be3+ Kb8 20 Rxs6 Re8 21 Qs2 c6 22 Ra8+ Kc7 23 Qa5+ Kd7 24 Rxd8+Black resigns

WINNING MOVE

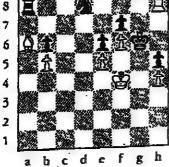
from the game Speelman - Sax, Thessaloniki Olympiad 1988. Material is equal in this

and the Black forces are very tangled. How can White force the decisive breakthrough? Send your answer on a postcard to The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN. The first

correct answer drawn on Thursday will win a year's subscription to the Staunton Society. The answer will be published next Saturday.

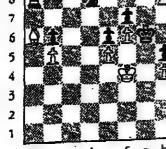
Last weak's solution: 1 Ng5

Mutchell, Great Holm, Milton Keynes, Bucks.

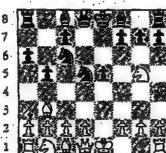


11 ... Bb7 12 axb4 Ra7 13 Qg4+ Kd6 14 Ne4+ Kc6 15 Qe6+ Bd8

By Raymond Keene White to play. This position is

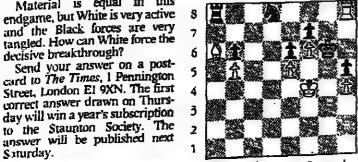


3b3



White's attack is triumphant and Black could already have resigned

Last week's winner: K M



ror image of the move with which ANXIOUS that Santa might not black could have won on move ten. deliver quite enough presents to keep the entire household occupied well into 1998? In our latest competition, two families will split £1,000 worth of gaming goodies

console which takes miniature game cartridges and can even be used as a basic link to the Internet. The two £500 treasure chests will Ba4 Ng5 also include a child's laptop computer and a junior electronic organiser. Barman & Robin walkie talkies. Hercules and Lost World



a b c d e f g h Tolstoy has tried a line of the Two Knights Defence, known as the Fegatello variation, which is

against Black's most vulnerable In its purest form the Fegatello. which has claimed many Black victims, goes thus: 1 e4 e52 NG Nc6

8 Nxt7 Kxt7 9 Qt3+ Ke6 For his piece Black's king is directly in the firing line, but this move blunders back the extra material.

poured into outlets above ground cloud the otherwise perfect picture. A side effect of the contamination is that the sea creatures are now mutating. The game is played over a series of missions, starting with the exercise which fuels the gameplay. To upgrade your sub you must trade by collecting crystals to sell to a refinery: Mixed with

> the mutants on your tail. The lighting effects add plenty of atmosphere, especially the shafts of sunlight forcing their way beneath the waves and mottling the seabed. The game looks glorious but the action lacks urgency because of the setting. The water resistance at times means your sub is moving through treacle.

the trading elements are the real

adventures as you search and

rescue others ducking and diving

odyssey at a leisurely pace. £39.99. FLYING CORPS Gold is a First World War flight sim and aerial combat caper rolled into one. This is a revamped release of the

Verdict: 8 out of 10. Underwater



include your name, age, address and telephone number. The closing date is Tuesday, December 16. Normal Times competition rules

THE National Lottery still keeps You may also e-mail your jokes, marked Cyberspace Thirty-Nine, us on tenterhooks each Saturday. even if fewer of us tune in for the

Two families will split £1,000 worth of Tiger Electronics games the official site (http://www. national-lottery.co.uk/game/ genplain.html), you can look up facts and figures, check old numbers and even use the spooky online random number generator to make your choice. I say spooky herause when I tried, it came up with four of the six numbers on my

LENGTHEN ING

COMPUTER GAMES AND PASTIMES

by Tim Wapshott

happening? Now I am in a quandary. Perhaps, because these numbers have come up, it means they will never do so again in the real thing. On the other hand, could this be an omen relling me to keep playing because my numbers will be up shortly?

It may be specky but, this coincidence aside, the generator is barely any fun to run. For every !! spent on the lottery, only 28p makes its way to good causes and you can get a dreary overview at the site of the way this is divided.

In effect, money destined to help others is dished out through one of five channels (Charities, Millennium, Sports, Heritage and Arts). There are several other Web sites offering random number selections. One is Steve Blundell's UK National Lottery Page (http:// www.lledaulh.demon.co.ukt. where you can also track down details of likely numbers. Updated weekly, these are 18 numbers based on what has historically gone before. It includes those which have appeared most (currently 5, 25, 28, 43, 44. 45), six which have cropped up least (13, 15, 18, 37, 39 and 49) and an undefined "most overdue" list [7.

and £15,203 respectively. THERE is nothing new in getting your computer to talk to you. In the dark Eighties there were already several small DOS programmes which could take your text then read it aloud.

One of the latest incarnations of the genre is the Talk Back CD-Rom Windows 95, available for a hefty £70 from several suppliers including Innovations (0900 \$07060). Define text in a regular file and at the rush of a button it is read aloud in a female voice. Delivery has an appealing metallic feel and

to cyber@dircon.co.uk. You must midweek draw on Wednesdays. At



Sub Culture looks glorious few nifty additions, including multiplayer modem possibilities Scramble into the air in a choice of 19 authentic flying machines, like a Nieuport 28, Fokker Dri Triplane or Sopwith Camel, and pick off bandits at ten o'clock if you can.

There are plenty of campaigns to

skills or you can tailor challenges to

confronted with a vast an array of dials, switches and controls. Handling the craft takes some skill but there is nothing more rewarding than the first time you get an enemy plane in your sights and pluck it out of the sky. This revamped version also boasts improved artificial intelligence, so planes do not spin out of control as often and handle better when flown at low altitudes. This is a modest. and modestly priced, title from Empire but it serves up plenty of thrills and spills. The only thing you need to make more of the

experience is one of those joke

windswept scarves with a wire in it.

Verdict: 7 out of 10. Charming successful Flying Corps but with a WWI doglighter, £29.99.

12, 13, 20, 26, 49). some pronunciations are hilarious. ticket and what are the odds of that Not all sites are a celebration of SOLUTION TO JUMBO CROSSWORD 197 TO MOOR ROW



LISTENER The winner of an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £!25 is M.Carter of Lundon W12

ા કેલ જિલ્લોનું હતા.

MODERN MANNERS by John Morgan

Send your queries to Morgan's Modern Manners, The Times, Weekend, ! Pennington Street, London El 9NX

bottle of wine, is it correct to serve that bottle at the meal (it might not be complementary with the food? A friend recently suggested that a guest bringing a bottle might be anxious to ensure a really "decent" drink with his/her dinner not wishing to leave such an important matter to his hosts. -Anne Thomas, Datcher, Berkshire.

A host is under no obligation to serve a bottle of wine brought by a guest. He may, however, decide that it could be opened if he feels it will be a suitable addition to the evening's enjoyment. For instance, I went to a dinner party recently where a German guest had brought two bottles of Eiswein. These were gleefully opened by our hostess to accompany the pudding and were a treat all round. I am not impressed by your friend's theory that people bring a bortle to ensure

a "decent" drink with their meal and suggest his story speaks vol-umes about his friends and his cellar.

Some weeks ago my wife and I put up some friends of my daughter's (husband, wife and two children) over a weekend. They left expressing their pleasure at baving been with us and their hope that we

should have them again. We were surprised that neither we nor our daughter received a note of thanks and wonder whether our expectation fails to take account of changing patterns of social behaviour. Name and address withheld.

It is not you who is out of date, but your guests who are out of touch with good manners. If people have stayed in a house, it is still polite for guests to write a letter (not just a postcard) expressing thanks. pleasure and good wishes to their hosts who have been kind enough to offer hospitality.

We are in the process of buying our Christmas cards. We hear that last year some Jewish friends were apparently rather upset by our choice of design. What can we do this year to avoid hurting the feelings of our non-Christian friends? — Jane Clarke, London SW10.

Avoid any overtly Christian imagery on the front of the cards. Also, make sure that the greeting within is suitably global and multi-denominational: "Season's greetings" is the safest.

O have recently been promclients out to lunch. Please can you give me some advice on

ALFRED DUNHILL

LONDON

When a dinner-guest arrives at one's home clutching a guests are male the waiter asks me for my order first, when I am sure I should allow my guests to order.
When in mixed company the
waiter generally asks the ladies first. I presume as the host I should order last. I have also been in the situation where one of my male guests has been asked for his order first and he indicates I should order first. I am confused. Jane Woottan, London SWI.

> A t suggest you fall back on traditional restaurant form in which the host orders on behalf of his guests. This will not only cut through the confusion when ordering the food, but will also make it clear to possibly sexist waiters that you are the host and will be paying.

Would you please tell me if it is correct to lay a place setting with the dessert spoon and fork across the top of the table mat the fork handle to the right.

or is it better to put them inside the knife and fork? Also if one is using a fruit knife and fork, where should they be placed in the setting of the table? Should they be handed out with the dessert plates? -P. Henessy, London

WORD WATCHING

By Philip Howard

RHYSSA

RUNO

SAMPOT

a. A sarong

b. Buffalo stew

a. An interpreter

b. A spiced pancake

c. Gin and bitters

a. A river nymph

c. A rhetorical scream

c. The Tibetan mongoose

c. The Mekong coracle

b. A parasite

a. A short epic

b. Brownish grey

A it is incorrect to lay a place setting with the dessert spoon

and fork across the top of the place mat. Either put them inside the knife and fork or, if space is short, follow the old custom of bringing them to table when you serve the pudding. Concerning a fruit knife and fork, they should be brought to the table with the dessert plates and not be placed above the table mat.

Recently I was invited for an all-expenses paid stay in a five-star hotel in the south of France. When leaving I decided Recently I was invited for an that, as a guest, it was rude to look at the bill and left without checking it. Since then I have worried that this was rather rash. What would you suggest? — PSD.

As a corporate guest, always ask to check and sign the bill on the day of departure, particularly in places like the south of France where commercial opportunism is almost a way of life. This way you will avoid finding yourself in an embarrassing position similar to a well-known journalist, who once left an expensive Paris hotel oblivious to the fact that a massive was to be concocted and charged to her host. This fraud came to light months later when it was revealed that far from the heavy-duty entertaining charged to her room, she had retired each and the latest Doris Lessing. John Morgan is associate editor of GQ.



TWO BRAINS

IT IS possible to read and comprehend text at alarming rates. The leading

speed-reading records of which I am

aware are as follows: Sean Adam

(USA) has claimed a record of 3,850

words per minute while Kjetill Gunnarson of Norway and Vanda North (UK) have respectively logged 3,050 and 3,000 words per minute.

This column would welcome input

from readers citing speed-reading records that might exceed these

Question I: If DG = 53 and FT = 406, what does TC

Name two five-letter words that use four different vowels plus the letter

Ouestion 2:

Answers on page 35 | Answers on page 35.

When I said 'put me down!')

I only meant...





CROSS WORDS

by Brian Greer

hen filling a grid, I take care to select words that look interesting and amenable to cluing. Each word is examined for special pro-perties that will provide an opening. For example, has it an ana-gram or can it be treated as a charade? For another possibility, consider TEACHABLE. It can be seen as EACH inside TABLE is that helpful? A favourite devious-but-fair ploy is to define "each" by "a head", which conveniently links with the target word. "Board" will do for "table", R.K. | clue is complete: Board brings

in a head ready to take classes (9). As in this example, the necessary components are definitions of the containing word and the contained word, an indication that the former surrounds the latter, or the latter occupies the former, and a definition of the whole. Numerous variations are possible. For example, the container or contents may be an abbreviation, as in: Saw dog being restricted by lead (?).

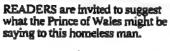
Sometimes a word looks intractable: SYLLOGISM, for ex-

ample. A possible solution is to use another manipulation, namely reversal. Can anything be done with GIS being surrounded by MOLLYS in reverse? If it is a down clue, the reversal

can be indicated by "upset" (if it was an across cive, "backed" or "turned" or some such would be appropriate). Since "Molly" is a diminutive of "Mary", we can: have "Little Mary's upset about soldiers ...". But how to define "syllogism"? Recalling the women who could never agree because they were arguing from different premises, let's use "arguing on" premises". "Soldiers" is hack-neyed for GIs, so substitute "sening Americans : Little Mary's upset about serving Americans arguing on premises (9). On to the next word.

Answers for last week: wo(e)-man Marshall, Hard Times, Royal Nays. overawing, manhandle, Scandinavian, disconsolate

PICTURE LINE



This picture, recently printed in The Times, will appear again next week with an entry chosen from those submitted.

Send "speech bubble" suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to PictureLine, Weekend. The Times, I Pennington Street,

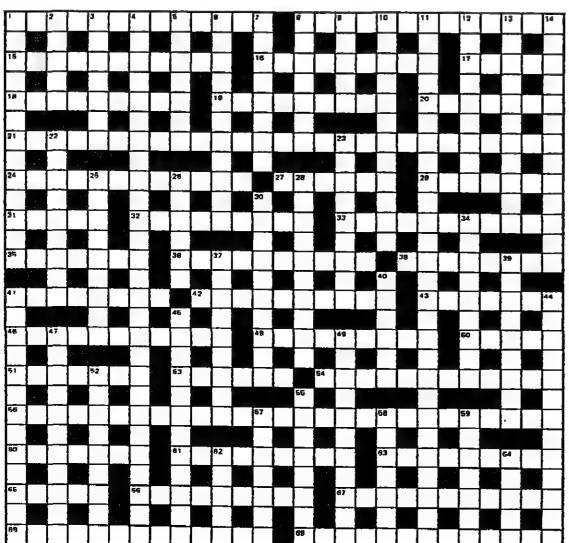
The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, December 10.

was submitted by Chris Drew of Manchester,



JUMBO CROSSWORD 139

The prize for the first correct solution to be opened will be an Alfred Dunhill AD2000, worth £125, the world's first interchangeable, capless rollerball/ballpoint pen. Streamlined and made from black resin with a gold-plated clip, it has perfect writing balance. Entries should be sent to: Jumbo Crossword 139, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London El 9XN to arrive by Monday, December 15. The name of the winner will be published on Saturday, December 20.



NAME.

I Managed to cut hesitation in gallery, and change characters on show (13)

8 The new saw lies abandoned such a simple instrument (6.7)

15 A hat for Queen in highland town having no effect (11) 16 Local people in East Asia went astray (9)

17 Escape notice when coming in the day before (5) 18 Frank? Certainly not at home.

cause he's left here! (9) 19 House new partner in a

rudimentary way (9)
20 Spouting black stuff — at work

extracting oil (7)
Rome wasn't built in a day — as its constructor, when pressed, might have sung? (4.2,4.2,7.3.5)

24 Well-cleaned spades, repeatedly heading gold prospector's tools 27 Pester badly for fix, at the outset

29 Nice 200 rebuilt in former times

31 Rewound recording about unknown exile (5)

32 Improving continuously without those people (2,3,4) 33 Initial investment in cash crop?

(4.7) 35 A couple of novel characters meet PM (3.4)

36 Kept secret the majority of undies and — (vulgar, Ed) (10) 38 I am next to do without one, in unequal distribution (8)

41 Chary holding race in cold twice, as snow may be underfoot (8)
42 Faced up to new impudence in
mixed school (10)

43 Succeeded with aluminium can. getting good preservation (7)
46 Showing some interest in this profession? (11)

48 Hebrews are following sources of honey – about right place in their

wilderness (9) 50 Mission returning from Alamein secures it (5)

51 Note one horse about to be backed — in China? (7)

53 Is this bound in leather — calf maybe? (6)

54 Dissecting corpse to run one by a lecture at first? (12)

56 Could "Poe wrote on both" answer this Carrollian riddle? (3.2.1.5.4.1.7-4) 60 Disordered state of America?

That's nothing to you and me! (7) 61 Almost complete agreement in lines, area and radius — as most eclipses are (9) 63 Cube root? (5.4)

65 Part of Chaldean village built in 66 Low temperature beer, perhaps around zero — it's of debatable

East European governor's office organised VIP video show — not the last (11) 68 Cat may be torment for slow

moving creature (13) 69 Former MP sweetly rambling about run on heading from the Oval to Edghaston? (5-8)

3 Murphy, possibly —
revolutionary, man and soul (7)
4 "I'd like full cover for the holiday"
—— heard from one often on the

7 Judge investing one million in property (8)

magma (5)

10 First woman with lines heard to

civil war tune? (4,6,5,8,4) 12 In English, X covering ten, thus at

13 Business done by mail in remote site for shopping (7,4)

14 Glycerine et al. mixed as explosiv will go off (13)

25 Capital put up for high-livers in Asia? (9)

28 Vigorous, as many steaks are eaten (3-7) 30 It's never brief in stir with

Processed cereal and fruit left by son earlier (5,4)

39 Sincerely flattering note sent up object, musical to travel north? (9) 40 Beheaded what may be scaled

44 Mature, but of dubious

47 Source of heat for cooking (5.6) in the vodka? (11)

52 Most of old Russia's trouble? It's sweetly unrefined (9)

58 Leading industrial place (Suffolk) with its County Hall? (7) 59 Weapon concealed in man's

Let Pig and Whistle get drumk in partial narcosis (8.5)
 Victoria's afternoons — Queen

and sovereign rising after middle of day (5)

road? (2.8.2.1.5.9)
5 Condition of horses you heard of, on the cheek (7)

6 Kill two animals with one neat shot (i l)

8 Top bowler (7) 9 Help! I'll be caught in rising

dry up, with no firm direction (12) 11 Hear me, Jenny, which common song is rearranged around hard

full length? (2,7)

22 Type of sheet of help in record copy run? (4.5)
23 Census put changes beyond doubt

26 English got in beer to begin journey (3,3)

prolongation in cell in mind (5,5)

37 One noisy and wildly unrestrained (9)

reptiles (6) 41 Second organ added to church battle-cry? It aids force on entry

parentage, president executes unlown after angry murmur (4.4.5)45 Defective in such valour? (12)

49 What's used with a twist of orange

55 "Novus" may be legal jargon (3.5) 57 One name yet to stick in American's mind (7)

clothing (7) 62 Overlying rock with partly green appearance (5) 64 Number appearing as one alternative I left out? (5)

No 1270

DOWN

1 US ravine (5):

4 Musical beat (6)

A good turn (8)

Fail to interest (5,3,4)

12 All the gods, their temple

13 Disrupt (speaker) (6)

19 Blackthorn (fruit) (4)

goods (6)

Have angry surge (3.3)

15 Move clumsily, unwanted

18 Tie the knot: I say! (Shak)

Be passenger (4)

The press (Macaulay) (6.6)

ACROSS

I Gamble everything (2,3,5)

8 Clothes washing (7) 9 Father's granddaughter maybe (5)

10 Shacks (4) 11 At any convenient time (8) 13 Carrion-feeding pack hunt-

14 Tell off (child) (5) 16 Stop that; how to detach eg coupon? (3,2,3)

17 Smile broadly; ship's breadth (4) 20 Water of forgetfulness (5)

21 Tory PM; made a Declaration (7) 22 Ill-disposed, aloof (10)

SOLUTION TO NO 1269

ACROSS: 1 Lode 3 Specimen 8 Noun 9 Grumbles 11 Split hairs 14 Ocuvre 15 Throne 17 Now or never 20 Analysis 21 Crop 22 Patience 23 Zest

DOWN: 1 Long shot 2 Double up 4 Purdah 5 Comprehend 6 Moli 7 Nest 10 Stereotype 12 Converge 13 Decrepit 16 Zodiac 18 Warp 19 Dart

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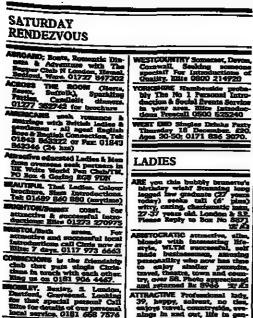
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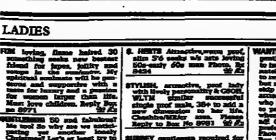
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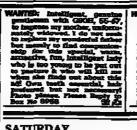
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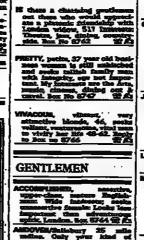
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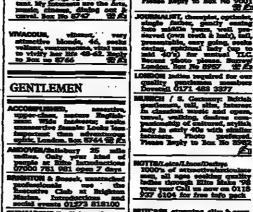
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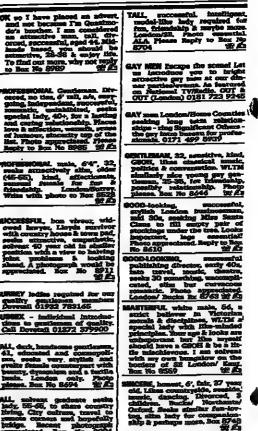
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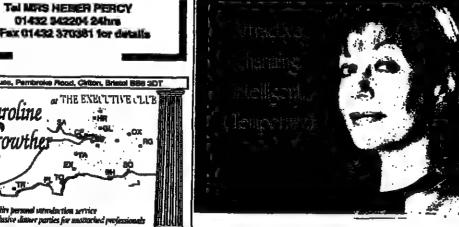
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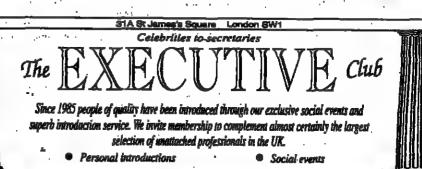
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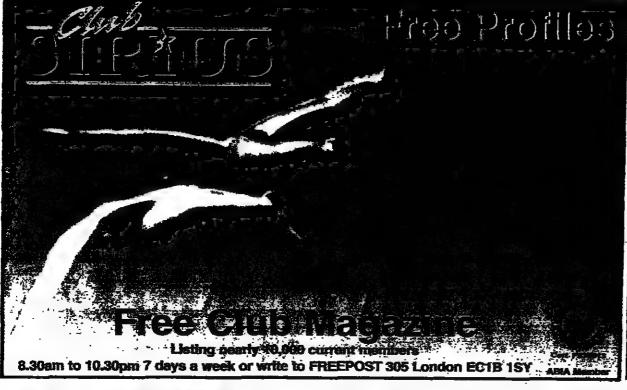




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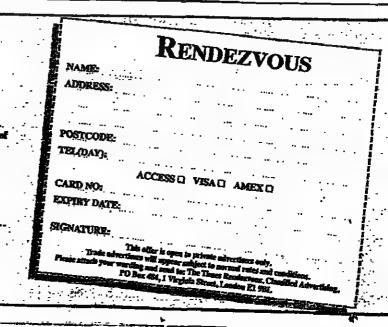
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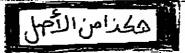
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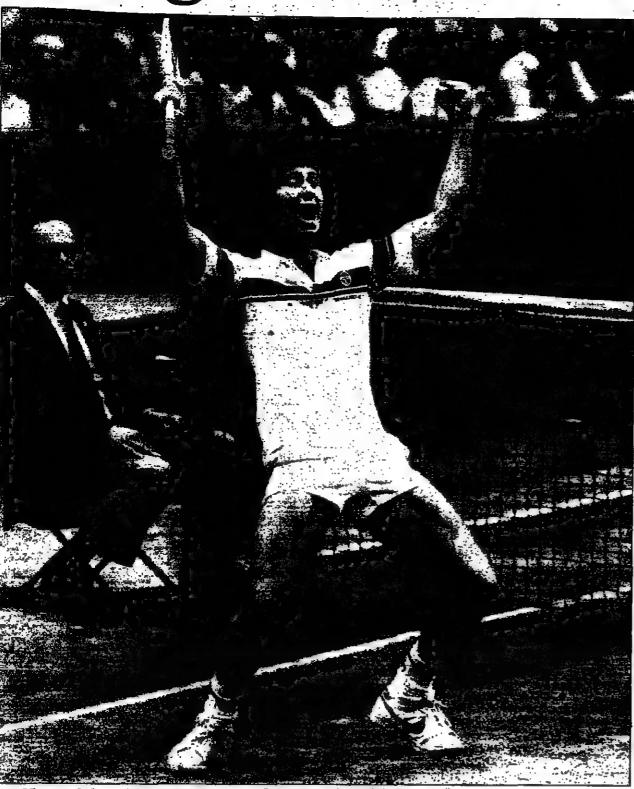


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Julian Muscat watches Borg and McEnroe renew the rivalry that transfixed the Centre Court

Legends revive a golden age





Victor and victor: the contrasting images of McEnroe, left in 1981, and Borg, in 1980, reveal much about their emotions in winning their respective first and fifth Wimbledon titles, elation for the American, relief for the Swede

the 1981 Wimbledon men's singles final, the Centre Court making an appropriate stage for their vast talents. Fittingly, they renewed their once intense rivairy in the Royal Albert Hall yesterday - and there was no lack of intrigue

among a capacity crowd. Time's passage has left its mark on both players. Their groundstrokes bore less spite than in bygone days. Nevertheless, it made an eerie experience to have their mannerisms reincarnated. Right to the last detail, they are more sedate versions of the men whose Wimbledon exploits captivated this country for a decade. Borg still hurries between points as though inhabiting the corridors of a school that bans running. McEnroe ... still uncoils a mean service, still conjures angles of which most players can only dream.

Yet there was far more to it than that Even a 16-year hiatus has done nothing to dampen the old alliances. There were no neutrals among 3,500 spectators — most, it has to be said, rooting for the brash New Yorker. In their printe, these two players divided the allegiance of the Centre Court and shared seven matches apiece in a rivalry severed prematurely when: Borg retired. He was just 26.

Here was peculiar evidence that McEnroe's apocalyptic reign has left a greater resonance among fans than Borg's impeccable demeanour. For all his Wimbledon titles, Borg's robotic ruthlessness leaves him less appreciated than the tempestuous. McEnroe, the winner of three Wimbledon titles among seven grand slams to his name. It seems that the currency of . notoriety far outweighs the

surprise that McEnroe managed to level the contest. The years have been less kind to him then to Borg, whose-baseline speed remains intact.

After a turbulent decade, Borg appears in remarkably fine shape. His blond locks are now shorn, so that he might easily pass for one of the founding fathers of Abba, Sweden's other famous European export, and the fusiliade of passing shots that he smick past his startled opponent further illustrated the contrasting qualities of these former gladiators. While Borg's trademark groundstrokes are a legacy of the practice grounds, McEnroe trusted more to instinct, relied greatly on the triumvirate qualities of touch, feel and anticipation.

Borg can summon a regimented precision almost at will. Those shots are as ingrained in him as the act of breathing. McEnroe's assets are always quick to desert those advancing in age. On occasions, he looked leadenfooted when confronted by Borg's passes. When he could afford that extra split-second, however, he was lethal on the volley. His ability to improvise was a priceless gift that time had largely repossessed. Borg's remarkable speed served to remind McEnroe's drop shots had to die on the bounce, that only the finest of angles would counter Borg's baseline patrols — and so it was here.

The body language between them was as potent as ever. Borg would be ready and waiting to serve as McEnroe fretted behind the baseline, forever delaying the Swede, forever trying to break his formidable concentration. While Borg sat implacably during changeovers. McEn-





roe's balding head would be swathed in his towel, his expression never less than fraught. Certainly, McEnroe's opening service game was a cameo of old: an ace, followed by Borg effortlessly passing the American with a return of service, followed by a McEnroe service that smacked a line judge straight in the midriff. It was as if they had never left the spotlight.

And, of course, there were McEnroe's tantrums — utterly contrived on this occasion. In their playing days, McEnroe's respect for Borg ram so deep that he never crupted on court. Here, he stage-managed a row with the umpire for the sake of

the gallery. He gratuitously incurred himself a warning for ungentlemanly conduct, although his impromptu ex-change with Borg, after the latter had foot-faulted in the decisive tie-break, was a real gem. "Do you get bad calls sometimes?" Borg asked of his opponent. "You've got to roll with the punches," was McEnroe's fatherly advice.

It was uncanny how that tiebreak brought out the best in both men. If McEnroe appeared exhausted long before its advent, his pride took over from the opening point. So enjoyable was this passage that McEnme later lamented that it brought the match to a

The critics complained, traditionalists were horrified, but the crowds loved to see McEnroe rail against authority hasty conclusion. "I wish we were still playing," he said 15 minutes after departing the court. "I was just getting into it and we are not that old that we

can't play a third set." The merest mention of the phrase "tie-break" in the context of Borg and McEnroe is enough to trigger any number of memories. In the 1980 Wimbledon final, they played what is described as the most memorable passage in the modern era. Borg had five match points and McEnroe seven ser points before the latter prevailed 18-16 to force a fifth set, which Borg eventually claimed for his fifth straight title. He accrued il grand slams in his abbreviated

McEnroe said later that he would have mixed feelings about playing Borg again on the Centre Court at Wimbledon. He explained that it close to the bone. However, such has been the impact of these two titans in London this week that discussions are under way to stage a similar event in the Wimbledon buildup. Should the two events run concurrently, the contemporary clan, all grunt and muscke, are in danger of playing to empty houses. The crowds might well flock to the seniors. who are playing for fun.

thought that Bjorn Borg, calm of eye and infused with an impenetrable inner confidence, would embrace retirement and be denounced for his childlike obsessions and sorry lack of judgment. That is the lot of the darling of Wimbledon, the teenage sensation whose life reveals a litany of personal catastrophes.

Borg, 41, epitomised the middle-England virtues of grace and manners, yet he has emerged as a victim of contemporary sporting culture, in which endless hours of practice replaced the onset of puberty. The man once hailed as sport's finest ambassador has disintegrated beneath two tempestuous divorces and an acrimonious paternity suit over his child by a teenager he ran away with after adjudging her the winner of a wet T-shirt competition.

Since quitting the game in 1983, his disastrous forays into business have become legion. He is the saddest of all men: the one with the mind of a child, reduced to making ends meet through a sordid autobiography in which he described himself as the sex prisoner of his second wife, Loredana Berte, the Italian

cide in 1939, which he denie suggested that life itself had imprisoned the man whose only sanctuary was the tennis

That same arena now offers him redemption. Now embedtionship with Kari Bernhardt, an American restaurant owner, Borg's personal circumstances are more settled. The seniors tour affords him a comfortable living, if one far removed from the immense personal fortune that he

Borg always appears locked in a time capsule. In 1989, when making his abortive comeback, he insisted on using his defunct wooden racket. Even now, he is attempting to capitalise on his teenage allure. As we shed our teenage obsessions, Borg attempts to recreate them with personallyembossed underpants for our consumption. Once again, he has missed life's point.

It was commonplace to hear commentators innocently describing Borg's on-court presence as beyond human bounds. They were right for the wrong reasons. We must hope that the man deprived of his best years can find solace in those that remain.

JOHN McENROE ---

Tho would have thought that John McEnroe, wild of eve and possessed by rammant demons, would embrace retirement and be voted Father of the Year by an American national magazine? That is now the lot of the beast of Wimbledon, the enfant terrible who terrorised umpires and tormented opponents like none before him.

McEnroe, 38, is the proud patriarch of five children and the proprietor of a New York gallery specialising in less celebrated art. He could not be further removed from his autobiographical caricature of a ranting, graceless genius who would appear just one step removed from acts of violence, his face contorted, its features betraying bouts of debilitating mental turmoil. It now emerges that the Centre Court's chalk boundaries represented the bars of his prison cell, an arena of claustrophobia within the broader boundaries of life.

One wonders how Me-Enroe, who retired in 1992, would have coped with the contemporary game. His artesian qualities might have been crushed underneath its brute force. His fragile physique offers reason to doubt his ability to dominate and it is relevant that McEnroe ruled through the last years of the wooden racket, an implement, like a violin, of resonance and touch.

His most predictable act has been to front a rock band with his second wife. Patty Smyth, for he brought the rock element to the court that untained hair of the late 1970s, barely contained within that flaming red headhand. His only aberration, if indeed one can so describe it, is his failed marriage to Tatum O'Neal, daughter of Ryan.

He describes modern tennis as boring without realising that his departure has made it so. How could he possibly enjoy looking in from the outside, without caring whether each ball is in or out, without the adrenalin coursing his veins? It was all about winning and so it remains.

"As you get older," he said, "the pain of losing is greater and the joy of winning is diminished." Those words reveal everything about McEnroe's on-court demeanour. As for his metamorphosis off it, one must borrow from his vernacular to exclaim: "You cannot be serious!"





home to roost at Highbury, No surorise to those of us who have been predicting as much all season, arguing that Arsenal's misguided transfer policies and their abysmal lack of discipline would cost them dear in the end: as would their massive reliance on Dennis Bergkamp,

True they impressively beat Manchester United even without him. But the dire performance against Liverpool last Sunday emphasised the bleak effects of what they and their French manager, Arsène Wenger, have left undone.

could scarcely have foreseen was the vertiginous loss of form of Ian Wright, for so long a host in himself, a marvellous opportunist, Arsenal's Goleador. Could one speak, with any justice, of the curse of Cliff Bostin? The media played up beyond all sense the significance of the goalscoring record of the former Arsenal and England forward. The comparisons were not only odious but quite irrelevant, so many of Wright's goals having been scored in compe titions that did not even

exist when Bastin was play-

ing. Alas, Wright seemed

nonsense seriously. As he approached his supposed record, his goals dried up and they are yet to flow again.

This, over the years, is

something that happens to strikers. Somehow or other, some time or other, the goals stop coming. Wright, at 34, still has his health, speed and strength. Whether going to see a psychologist, to tame his more aggressive instincts. has something to do with

it, who can say?
An Ian Wright who is kind to referees, tolerant to jeering fans and prepared to dance cheek-to-cheek with

Peter Schmeichel, is no doubt to be morally admired but something may be lost in the transformation. So we have the irony of Wright, so often in disciplinary trouble, incurring no more yellow cards - let alone red ones - but no longer

putting the ball in the net. In an ideal world, there would be someone to step into his boots until the goalscoring urge returns. At Arsenal, indeed, Nicolas Anelka, having scored that goal against Manchester United, looked as if he might be the man. His perforin the Coca-Cola Cup was

gambling, who is clearly recovering his form and can vibrant until he got in-jured, but since then, alas, he play in a variety of attackhas not been able to play. ing positions. How Arsenal John Hartson? It is per-

could do with him now. haps unfair to blame Arsenal It was significant that and Wenger for selling before the season, no less a him, a matter of being wise figure than Dennis after the event. At the time Bergkamp himself expressed he left for West Ham for a his surprise and disapsupposed £5 million pointment that Merson had which for the moment looks more like £3.3 million. Arsenal on the whole,

Arsenal looked to have the have bought badly. That they better of the deal. At West are looking now at a Ham he has taken wing, but young Portuguese centre these things happen. ack is no surprise, espe-Far less excusable was cially remembering the emthe sale of Paul Merson, an barrassment caused to Arsenal man through and Tony Adams and Martin through, whatever his trou-Keown by Liverpool's litbles with drink, drugs and

tle Michael Owen last Sunday. Each in turn treated Owen shamefully. There is no replacing a Bergkamp but when Patrick

Vieira drops out as he has recently done, who is to replace his power? His fellow Frenchman

Petit, essentially a defender. has power but scant finesse. Wreh. Boa Morte. Mendez and Upson are not yet ready for the demands of the Premiership. And no player, deplorably, has been found to make the wheels turn in midfield, to carry on the great tradition set by Alex James between the wars.

Redfearn basks in limelight of centre stage

Mark Hodkinson meets the doughty

club captain, enjoying the attention

afforded by life in the Premiership

uccessful footballers have their own particular accessories and Neil Redfearn, the Barnsley captain, is no exception as he arrives in a BMW. wearing a baseball cap and with his agent.

For a few rueful seconds, he looks the identikit FA Carling Premiership footballer, set reluctantly to wring out a few words of bland

wisdom in exchange for discreet mentions for the sponsors of his tracksuit. boots or haircut. About as discreet as a Rov Keane tackle. that is.

He winds down the window of his car and beams a smile warm

enough to melt **smattered** across the hotel right, lads?" he savs in a dense Yorkshire ac-

cent. "I won't be a minute, I'm just looking where to park this car." When they come to make the rags to riches. Hartlepool United to Arsenal. Gow to Di Matteo biopic of Redfearn, American audiences will need

Our photographer senses

immediately Redfearn's congenial nature and proposes a ew shots before the interview. Normally, this request comes after some banal, sycophantic chat, during which time the subject is sufficiently softened up for a trial by camera. "No problem," Redfearn says, and sits down on the cold hard steps outside the hotel. He does not ask that we photo-

graph his good side, or indeed sponsored

His agent is a sweet, middle aged lady called Margaret. "I've just come to sure everything is all right," she said. There is no talk of fees or copy approval. Plates are brought beher a bundle of

"She's

great, is Marga-

ret. She's my

ly." he said. "I get loads of mail each week and she helps sort it all out. It's amazing how much get now we're in the Premiership."

mail.

Redfearn, at 32, has taken 17 years, eight clubs and more than 600 matches to reach football's top table. He is the



Redfearn, the ultimate football journeyman, reflects on the long and winding road that has taken him to Barnsley via eight other clubs

ultimate football journeyman; a reliable, intelligent playmaker with a thunderous shot and a penchant for scoring spectac-

Earlier in the season Barnsayed Cheisea at Qakweii and Redfearn was singled out by Di Matteo. "He was telling me what he was going to do to me and I had to laugh really. I've been to places like Hartlepool where there used to be holes in the dressing-room walls and I've played in games where someone's battered me from one end of the pitch to the other for 90 minutes," he

He started his career at Nottingham Forest but was

homesick and returned to the North with Bolton Wanderers. for whom he made his debut in 1982 against Rotherham United. "I'll never forget that match," he said. "I accidentally kicked Gerry Gow of all people and he said to me, 'do that again and I'll break your

His father, Brian, had also been a professional footballer, turning out as a winger for a clutch of northern lower league teams and it looked for a while as if Neil would emulate him, as he joined Lincoln City and Doncaster Rovers. "We used to have to ring the bank at Doncaster and make sure we'd been paid.

It upsets me to see that they are in trouble again at the moment," he said. "I think it is important to the game that smaller clubs survive."

imougn, by his own admission, he is short of Redfearn reached a higher level with Crystal Palace and Watford and, in 1989, was an integral part of the enterprising Oldham Athletic team built by Joe Royle. He played in the centre of midfield during Oldham's promotion to the top flight in 1990-91 and

scored 14 league goals.
The summer of 1991 in Oldham was much like the summer of 1997 in Barnsley. Camera crews descended on an allegedly grim northern town and the euphoria was intense. During that close season, Royle had a quiet but

fearn. "He told me he wanted to play me on the right of midfield," Redfearn recalled. "I felt I'd more than earned my right to play my own position.
I'd always seen Joe like a father figure, but it felt like he had kicked me in the teeth." After taking Oldham to the top, Redfearn was to play no part in their glory and left to join Barnsley, who were then

bottom of the old second

division with just one point from seven games. "It meant a lot to me to play for a Yorkshire club. I felt I could relate to their supporters," he

· season. played joyous, unfettered football and their promotion was greeted by universal acciaim. "We had no fear at all. If we went 3-0 down, we just as sumed we'd come back and score four," Redfearn said. "When we came up it was like a shot in the arm for the working man and I think most people want us to stay

Unfortunately, Barnsley's progressive football has not

been a success in the Premier-ship. Their defence has remained generous, but this has not been reciprocated by opponents. The philosophy of opti-mism instilled by Danny Wilson, the manager, has not perished entirely, however, Even when we were seven; goals down against United [Manchester], the other week. I kept thinking, if we could get a goal or two we might have a mini revival and make it 7-4 or something," Redfearn said.

Barnsley's one surprise result of the season was a 1-0 wan against Liverpool at Antield two weeks ago. Rediearn believes this owed much to a masterful piece of brinkman ship by Wilson. He organised the trip to Antield four days before the match so that the players could see Liverpooltake on Grimsby Town in the Coca-Cola Cup. Liverpool might well have been exhibirating and made Barnsler

'It meant a lot to me to play for a Yorkshire club. I felt I could relate to the fans'

apprehensive but, as Wilson had expected, they were ordinary, despite a 3-0 victory. and the Barnsley squad-left Merseyside unusually con-

Redfearn is steeped in football. From the age of seven he has been professionally coached. Talking about the game comes as naturally as playing it. He is interrupted several times by hotel staff oroierring pointons en ley's struggle. He looks them in the eye, listens to their comments and counters with his own.

As we leave, after all this free, unguarded conversation. he delivers a sting - except it is not a sting at all. "Margare. reckons I'd be good on things like A Question of Sport and doing stuff like this all helps, I suppose," he says. A question of integrity might well be more appropriate.

FA Cup minnows Wisbech ready to take bite out of big fish

t was cold enough to add antifreeze to the half-time Bovril and had they been able to commandeer a gritting lorry for the journey back over the Cambridgeshire border, the players of Wisbech Town would still not have felt immune from the winter chill of defeat. On Wednesday night, one door to Wembley had closed; today. another is springloaded and ready

Of all the small fry in the big FA Cup pond this afternoon, Wisbech are the real tiddlers. Tenth in the Dr Martens League Midland division, their opponents are Bristol Rovers, of the Nationwide League second division - the exact equivalent, in terms of their respective

places in the football pyramid, of Doncaster Rovers against Manchester United.

If Rovers had sent a soy to Raunds Town for Wisbech's FA Umbro Trophy third qualifying round replay on Wednesday, they would have seen a team that mixes a neat, passing game with commendable commitment, but with an attack led by a 39-year-old storeman and a 22-year-old university student as last line of defence. They would have seen Andy Moore, the man-mountain of a captain, thunderously head the decisive goal in a 3-2 extra-time defeat past his own goalkeeper. And they would have licked their lips as they envisaged a goal-

Keith Pike visits a Cambridgeshire team with an appetite for success in their tie with Bristol Rovers

hungry romp into the third round. It would, indeed, be a shock to rival most in the competition's history if Wisbech were to prevail today. This tie, though, is not so much about a non-league club attempting to create history as about one with the

chance to overwrite it. In the 40 years since their only previous appearance at this stage, a 2-1 defeat away to Reading, Wisbech's footballing claims to fame — they were twice beaten in the semifinals of the FA Vase in the midfoul of Les Ferdinand's prowess for Southall - have been overshad-

owed by off-field notoriety. In 1970, they captured a few headlines when their manager decided that the best way for his players to relax on the eve of a game was to take them to a striptease show. Worse was to follow. Much worse. Two years ago, Wisbech suffered the humiliation of being suspended by the Jewson Eastern Counties League. Their crime? Offering insufficient hospitality to visiting officials. Specifical-

ly, they had not been able to come up with a plate of sandwiches and a pot of tea. That incident and others led to an emergency shareholders' meeting 20 months ago at which a new chairman, Eddie Anderson, a new board and a new sense of direction were put in place, and if it is understandable that the present regime has no desire to revisit the past - "It was a huge embarrassment. Now we are only interested in looking ahead," John Petch, the secretary, said — a slice of Cup glory would go a long way towards erasing such memories for a club perhaps overdue a bit of luck.

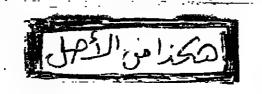
Charged with masterminding that bid is Gary Childs, appointed in September when the club decid-

would expedite their ambitions of place in the Vauxhall Conference Childs inherited from Ian Johnsa team that had blazed to promotion from the Jewson League with 14 goals. Peter Munns and Ian Wil-liams, two 25-year-old sales reps. bagged 47 and 34 respectively and Jackie Gallagher - he who will be 40 in April, — scored 29. "It is not a foregone conclusion that we will get beaten." Childs, the former Waisalf and Grimsby Town midfield player, said. "We have got some good players, a great spirit, and there will be 4,000 at Fenland Park." shouting their heads off." There might also be free sandwiches all round if they win.

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The Royal Bank of Scotland



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FOOTBALL SATURDAY

GLAND 3 GERMANY W. 2

30 years of Hurst. but now he thinks it could be all over

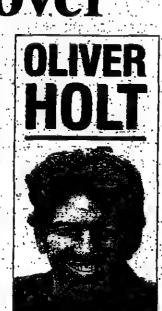
hey had spoken for a few minutes at the small party in a for-mer library near the old port in Marseilles, but when the middle-aged man in his favourite blue Harrods overcoat left with the delegation from England's campaign to stage the 2006 World Cup, Alan Shearer stopped eating his lamb cassoulet and fol-lowed the departing figure with his eyes.

Like a ghost of glories past and the spirit of what might be, the presence of Geoff Hurst in the South of France in the days leading up to the draw for the World Cup finals next summer, was a reminder of the momentous nature of the events that lie in store for Shearer and the rest of the England team.

Hurst represents the absolute best-case scenario, the man who produced the ultimate striker's performance in the ultimate lootball match, the World Cup final. In the course of one afternoon at Wembley in 1966, he ensured that he became a sporting icon, an enduringly powerful symbol of national pride and

That England team, but Hurst in particular, is the fondest image that bursts into the footballing minds of the nation every four years as. World Cup time comes around. The television piotures and the commentary integral parts even of late Nineties English culture, evidenced by the furore last year over the return of the hat-trick ball from Germany and the creation of a quiz show called

They Think It's All Over. For Hurst and the rest of the survivors of that team, the intervening decades have been anything but 30 years of hurt. instead, they have been years of being revered as the best team England have ever produced, years of a constant stream of well-wishers approaching them and telling them they provided them with one of the happiest days of





Hurst is a successful businessman today, who is not weighed down by his past glories

their life when they beat Germany that July day 31

years ago. In Marseilles, though, Hurst admitted that hints of ambiguity surround his patriotic desire to see England emulate the Boys of 66 in France next summer. He believes that England should reach the semi-finals at least and that this time, having created a squad spirit that has echoes of that forged by Sir Alf Ramsey, Glenn Hoddle's side is capable of winning the tournament

If that happens, though, Hurst realises that the nation will have a new set of footballing heroes to acclaim. There would be some feeling in me," he said, "that if England were to win the World Cup again it woud take away some of the glory of 66.

No question "I think one of the reasons that people still come up to me and are still very kind is that there is a whole generation still clinging on to that. The youngsters have not seen that. If we did it again, I feel we

would fade a bit in the past, but what would be wonderful would be for another generation to have the feeling that the older generation had when we WOD IL

"Our achievements might pale a bit, I suppose. But for a lot of people of our generation, it was their day, something that they still connect with and that will never change. Anybody who was more than ten years old on that day still remembers where they were. I do not think you would take that feeling from them if this

England team won in France and they would still generate it towards me as a person who was involved in

Hurst, though, is a genial, upbeat and positive man who the antithesis of a former player existing on former glories. He is a successful businessman, a leading part of a multinational insurancebroking firm and along with Sir Bobby Charlton and Gary Lineker, he is devoting much of his energy to championing England's bid to stage the

2006 World Cup. Nor is he weighed down by his past. Far from his hat-trick condemning the rest of his life to lingering anticlimax, he believes it was the beginning of everything good that has

happened to him since. That day, I think, was the starting point in many re-spects. Hurst said. You could argue that, from a professional point of view, once you have scored a hat-

ENGLISH journalists should

perhaps be a rad careful when

covering Newcastle United's

final European Cup Champi-

ons' League match against Dynamo Kiev next week. After

Dynamo's impressive 3-0

home victory against Barcelo-

na, one national newspaper

trick in the World Cup final, you are not going to do any better. I could have retired on August I, 1966 and been quite satisfied with my career. People still look on my career as if it was one game, although

I did actually have a reasonable career. "But everything I do today and am involved in today, everything affects my life today, is as a

result of that as if it was just memorable afternoon. It has affected my life in a very posi-

Cup final, you do not really feel as though you have got anything to prove to anybody. "When you are involved in a major success for your country people look very kindly on you for that and the memory of

that World Cup win seems to

be getting stronger. It is maturing like a wine.

World at his feet: Hurst secures his place in history with his third goal against West Germany at Wembley in 1966

"in 1975. I went on a trip to Hong Kong as a guest of British American Tobacco to present some football prizes. It was first-class travel and a very enjoyable trip. When I got remember saying to

years ago now People still look and it is going to fade away'. Well, here we on my career are just a wee bit later and it is all stronger that game' than it has ever

"The pleative way. When you have sure of being recognised for scored three goals in a World scoring that hat-trick never wears off. I still enjoy it. I enjoy people's reactions when they have waited 30-odd years to tell me where they were and to say it was the greatest day of their life. I get a lot of enjoyment out of that. A lot of fulfilment from that."

For the England players who might be allowing themselves to contemplate winning the tournament next summer. Hurst said his overriding emotion when the final whistle went at Wembley 31 years ago, the feeling he remembers most about winning the World Cup. was the sense of relief that

flooded over him. He can still talk you through every thought that was going through his head just before he scored his third goal. Desperately tired, the limit of his ambition was to give the ball-boy some more work and waste a few precious seconds. But as you know," he said, "I mis-hit it and it flew in."

And his ideal outcome in the World Cup final in Paris next July? His answer, delivered with a smile, is worthy of Solomon. "It would be nice if we got to the final, beat the Germans four to nothing ... and the two strikers scored two each. Yeah, that would be

Chile pencilled in for Wembley

AFTER the pomp and ceremony of the draw for the World Cup finals in Marseilles on Thursday. Football Associ-ation officials yesterday got down to the serious business of finalising England's fivematch warm-up programme before they travel to France again next year. Chile, one of the South American qualifers for the sport's greatest showpiece, have been pencilled in for Wembley on February II.

Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, had originally agreed to an international match against Colombia on that date but after the draw, which brought together Romania, England, Colombia and Tunisia in group G, the game was called off. "It had not been officially announced, anyway," an FA spokesman said yesterday. "The Colombians were quick to say that they didn't want to play us any more, once the draw had been made, so that was that. As yet, nothing else has been

Hoddle is keen that at least problems for our defenders.

one of England's five fixtures should be against South American opposition. It is also believed that the FA has provisionally accepted an invi-tation to play the United States in Washington on March 24 or 25 and may also be considering an offer to take on Croatia in Zagreb.

Faustino Asprilla, the Colombia and Newcastle United striker, has upped England to win the World Cup. The England lads have been joking with me all morning," Asprilla said, after training with Newcastle yesterday. They have said Colombia haven't got a chance. I've told them they will only be there in France for a week and then

"Seriously, though, England are obviously the group favourites. Their problems are not Colombia, it will be Romania or Tunisia. Alan Shearer is ·a magnificent player. He will score a lot of goals and cause

He is the strong base of the England team. I'm not afraid

of anyone in that side but we've got to respect some most important of all is Shearer." The Colombian people watch football from England all the time now," Asprilla

said. "People know about the

country and its football as they

watch it on satellite television and now follow it. And they know how difficult it will be for us against them." Asprilla feels his country have a huge point to prove they were very disappointing in the last World Cup when they were knocked out in the first round. "For all Colombia this is very important. And it is also important to us that our

last group game is against England. "We want to show ourselves, we haven't done ourselves justice in the World Cup up until now. It was very sad to go out in the first round the last time around, Colombia

players are very good players — not only me." Hoddle fears the frustration factor could be the biggest threat to his dreams of World Cup glory. He was far from displeased at the prospect of taking on the very different problems posed by the unknowns of Tunisia, the ageing Romanians and the volatile Colombians.

But the scheduling of the matches in group G means England will not be kicking off their bid for the crown until five days after defending champions Brazil have faced Scotland in the opening match. And for Hoddle, that spells a potential problem to be overcome.

'I'm -not too happy about having to wait that long." Hoddle said. "I'd have preferred for us to get under way a lot quicker. The lads will be sitting in the hotel and watching plenty of other games on television but what they'll want to be doing is getting on with it, and that's where the waiting will be hard."

scribe was taken to task for having described the game as a "mauling in Russia". Mykola Kravchenko, first secretary for press and cultural affairs at the Embassy of Ukraine in London, was not amused, "Dynamo has never been a Russian club, even at the times when Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union," he

paper's editor. 'Dynamo is known in the football world as a Ukrainian club which scored more success-than any other club of the former USSR had ever managed to attain. Today, geographically dyslexic reporting poses a danger of hurting millions of Dynamo's supporters in Ukraine who feel themselves stripped of a deserved victory with a stroke of a pen."

wrote, in a fierce missive to the

Beggar's gain

Nobody felt more over the moon about Iran's unexpected World Cup qualifying victory against Australia last weekend than Syed Hossein, a beggar on the streets of Tehran. Business had never been so good. "It's been a great day for me." Hossein reflected. "I've earned 100,000 rials (£20) in just half an hour. People are so happy that they're just tossing money at me." Good on yer, Syed. Let's party.



Ticket to ride

Managers and their backroom staff leave clubs for a variety of reasons but none stranger, surely, than that surrounding the departure of Adrian Piggon, the No 2 with Bedworth United, the Dr Martens League Midland di-vision club. Piggon asked for more than the usual one complimentary ticket for the home game against Hinckley United, but when the board refused his request he prompt-

Simon Haworth, the Coventry

City striker, got bored one day

ly walked our

Ukrainians take a dim view when

Russia gets Kiev's just deserts

so he went out and bought five goldfish - or at least he thought he did - to provide some excitement in the Haworth household. "[went off to Belgium with the Wales team but when I got back home there were only four fish in the tank," he said. "I reckon one of them's a piranha."

Gallows humour

Life's a bitch at Oxford United at the moment — £10 million in debt, new stadium on hold, every player up for sale — but at least Mike Ford, the United defender, has retained a sense of humour. "Someone turned up late for training the other day and we thought he'd been sold," he said, "but he just got stuck in the traffic."

STRANGE BUT TRUE: Northwich Victoria boast the most venerable football terrace in the world, the 120-yearold Danebank at Drill Field. It was recently reopened after a

Venables denies Portsmouth resignation

LIFE is never dull when Terry Venables is about - as Portsmouth again found to their cost yesterday (Russell Kempson writes). In the morning, it was reported that Venables. the Portsmouth chairman, had resigned; in the afternoon, doubts were expressed about the validity of the stories in the evening he denied that he had left.

As preparations go, for Portsmouth's Nationwide League first division game against Stoke City at Fratton Park this afternoon, they were expected to match the pay-



not the best. In addition, the players are still waiting forlast month's wages. Fifty per cent has been paid by the Professional Footballers' Association and the club is now

departure surfaced early on. Terry Fenwick, the Portsmouth manager, read a brief message from Venables to the players, which said that Venables had left the club.

It was also revealed that the 51 per cent shareholding he had apparently bought for El eight months ago had still not been transferred into his name. Martin Gregory, the club owner, had consequently withdrawn the offer of a holding, which was to have solved; you can talk to the

ment. Rumours of Venables's been purchased for about £3 million within three years. However, Venables later

said that reports of his departure were premature. "As of now, I'm still the chairman of the club until such time as I choose different," he said. "I expect to make a decision on my future at the club by the end of the weekend. I am going to consider my position; I don't want to jump into something I might regret. The club's financial crisis has been

Harford completes move

WEST Bromwich Albion and Queens Park Rangers might not have exactly kissed and made up yesterday, but they at least reached a civilised agreement over the services of Ray Harford. West Bromwich accepted that Harford, their manager, wanted to leave The Hawthorns for Loftus Road and, after the threat of legal action had been lifted, all

the outcome. Harford has taken charge of the Rangers side and will lead them in their home game against Sunderland in the Nationwide League first division this afternoon. John Hollins, who has been in charge of the side since Stewart Houston and Bruce Rioch were dismissed last month,

parties appeared happy with

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

has been offered the position of Harford's assistant

West Bromwich had been prepared to take the matter to court. Tony Hale, the chairman, claimed that Harford had failed to give the club the six-month notice period required for his resignation, which he announced late on Wednesday. After talks between the clubs before the scheduled hearing in the High Court yesterday, an "amicable

agreement" was reached. When we decided on taking legal action, we acted in the interests of this football club," John Wile, the West Bromwich chief executive, said. It is absolutely wrong for a club to poach another

club's manager, especially when we had bent over backwards to help Ray with support and money. It is wrong that, through no fault of our own, we should be put in a position where we could suffer incalculable damage."

Jamie Stuart, 21, the Charlton Athletic defender, is to be charged with misconduct by the Football Association after failing a drugs test. Stuart tested positive for cocaine and marijuana whenthe FA's drugs control unit visited the first division club's training ground on Novem-

Stuart is the third player to fail a drugs test this season after the cases of Dean Jones, of Barnsley, and Shane Nicholson, of West Bromwich.

e Royal Bar Scotland

big fist





LIVERPOOL

MANCHESTER UNITED Today, 11.15 (sold out)



Oliver Holt This match may not be quite as seminal as the corresponding fixture towards the end of last season when

Manchester United tore Liverpool apart at Antield and condemned them to a late spell of mediocrity which robbed them of a European Cup Champions' League place, but the FA Carling Premiership game on Mersey-side today could be pivotal in the race for the title.

After the trauma of their defeat by Barnsley in their last match at Antield a formight ago. Liverpool salvaged some pride and suggested that a challenge on United's supremacy might still be feasible - with an untypically gritty I-0 win over Arsenal at Highbury last Sunday, courtesy of a sublime goal from Steve McManaman.

That surprise victory confirmed the trend of a Liverpool season that has swung crazily from highs to lows.

It also means that a win over Alex Ferguson's team would bring them within striking distance of United and stifle some of the cries for the replacement of Roy Evans, the beleaguered Liverpool manager, who almost certainly will be eased out of his

job at the end of the season if Liverpool fail to win the title. Before the Arsenal game, Jamie Redknapp, the Liverpool midfield player, one of their best at Highbury in the absence of Paul Ince. his usual central partner, said his team needed a minimum of four points from the two games in London and Liver-

pool. They are three-quarters of

the way there.

That fourth point, though, may be the hardest to win. United are in formidable form and the way they disposed of Blackburn Rovers at Old Trafford last Sunday, suggests they will be in no mood to encourage any belated title aspirations taking root on Mersey-

The absence of Ince and Robbie Fowler, both suspended, from the Liverpool line up will weigh in their favour, too.

United will be without Paul Scholes, but Ferguson actually gave thanks for that after the victory over Blackburn, saying that it would ease a selection dilemma that is already assum-

ing significant proportions.

His main problem is the attacking permutation now that Teddy Sheringham, Andy Cole and Ole Gunnar Solskjaer are all scoring goals regularly.
That could swing things
United's way, but Liverpool may

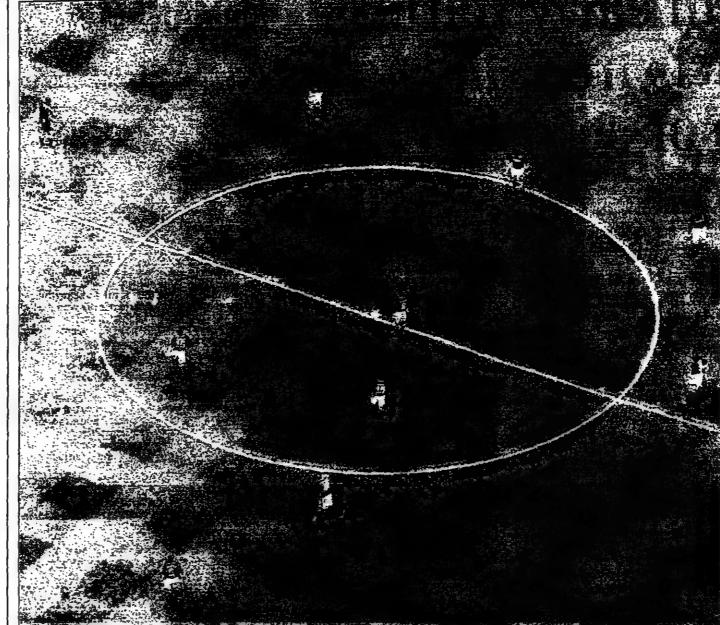
salvage something from a game that will have all the fervent atmosphere of a derby.

LIVERPOOL, grobable; 4-4-2; D. James. — R. Jones, B.T. Kvarme, M. Wright, D. Masteo. — S. McManarum, J. Redmapo, J. Camagher, St. Sporebbe, — M. Owen, K. Redle.

MANCHESTER, LINITED (4-3-1-2) P. Schmeichel — G. Neville, G. Palissier, H. Barg, P. Neville, — D. Beckham, N. Butt, R. Geggs. — E. Sheringham — A. Cole, O. G. Schakeer.

TELEVISION: Today: Live on Sky Sports 1, from 10.30am, and on Match of the Day (extended hlights)

PREDICTION: Honours even.



Centre of attention: the teams prepare for the big kick-off, but at what time is anybody's guess. Photograph: John Gichigi/Allsport

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SIGN OF THE TIMES

It's Liverpool v Manchesler United today, which can only mean one thing — a truly surreal kick-off time. 11.15am is the chosen time for the Red Armies to meet this season. Here are some other kick-off times to conjure

1. 7.30, Wednesday evening Unless stated, of course 2. 7.45, Wednesday evening which it usually is

3. 12, midday Useful for newspapers to use "high-noon showdown" headines 4. 8.00, Monday evening Oh goody, it's Leicester v Wimble-don tonight

5. 1.00, Sunday afternoon it used to be roast beet and Yorkshire pudding, now it's more likely to be Cardilf v Swansea

8. 3.05, Sunday afternoon Usually just after the Cusen Vic has

7. 4.00, Sunday afternoon Arsenal v Man U if you've got Sky The Dambusters if you haven't 8, 2,00, Saturday afternoon For clubs who object to banchime

9, 5.30, Saturday evening Even England v Cameroon is better than Are You Being Served? . . . but only just

10. 6.00, Boxing Day evening Known as the cold turkey treatment 11. 3.00, Saturday afternoon Don't be ridiculous, that will never

Compiled by Richard Whitehead



LEEDS UNITED EVERTON Today, 3.0



Simon Wilde Which side of their beds will the Leeds United players get out of this morning? It may be the

most meaningful clue as to how the FA Carling Premiership's most enigmatic side performs at Elland Road this afternoon. Of late, they have been profligate and parsimonious, dull and dynamic, sweet and sour - never the same from one week to the next, except in their ability to fashion the right result, usually at the last, lung-bursting

They have won their past four premiership matches, the last three after going 0-3, 0-1 and 0-2 down against Derby County, West Ham United and Barnsley respectively. The more frequent these heroics, the harder it is to dismiss them as messy flukes.

Even George Graham, the Leeds manager, has admitted not always knowing what his players are about but he knew enough to agree this week to stick with the club until the end of the century (for adequate remuneration, of course). He must be missing the predictability of those asphyxiatingly efficient performances of old, but perhaps he is as intrigued as everyone else by his side's unconquerable spirit.

How long can it last? Leeds, who might have been content this season to rebuild, now lie an improbable fourth in the table, and with the visitors being lowly Everton, beaten in their past five matches and without a win away from home in the premiership this year, it is tempting to envisage Leeds, for once, doing the crushingly obvious and taking them to the cleaners.

However, Leeds will need to avoid vertigo - and there are doubts over Lucas Radebe and Harry Kewell. Radebe, who flies to Johannesburg tonight for South Africa's international against Brazil tomorrow. has a groin strain and Kewell has a damaged knee. Hopkin is under suspension.

If Everton do lose again, further displays of disenchantment from their supporters are assured. Johnson, the chairman, is in

their sights. LEEDS UNITED (poscible, 4-4-2); N Martyn – G Halte, D Wotherall, L Radebs, D Robertson — G Kelly, L Bowyer, Ai Hasland, B Ribetro — JF Hasselbarni, R Wattens.

-6

EVERTON (possible, 5-3-2): M Southell — E Benett, T Thomas, C Diler, C Short, A Finctocille — M Wart, D Williamson, G Speed — D Castamartest, D Forguson, Referee: P Durkin

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, BBC1 10 50pm, goal PREDICTION: Leeds to grind out unexpectedly dull win.





reter Kobinson

Were you to mill around Ewood Park this after-

moon, drinking in

the atmosphere

before the visit of

Bolton Wander-

Richard Hobson

one of the easier

weekend fixtures

County are un-

beaten in the FA

Carling Premier-

Nick Szczepanik

Until Crystal Pal-

ace's 4-1 hammer-

ing at Upton Park

on Wednesday

night, watched by

Roberto Bettega,

vice-president of

shin at Pride Park while West

Ham United have yet to enjoy

victory on their travels. A routine

The Derby defence has been

increasingly jittery and even the sight of John Hartson, the West

Ham striker, taking a pre-match

stroll on the pitch, may induce

panic among the ranks. Thus,

Jim Smith, the manager, is

considering restoring Stimsc. 2

comforting presence, to the back

three, even though he is not

convinced that the Croatia inter-

potential investors. Juventus, the

story of their season had been,

their excellent away form; but if

results on their travels start to go

the way of their dire home record,

Palace could begin to fulfil pre-

season predictions of a struggle.

However, an early opportunity

to relaunch the road campaign

presents itself at Filbert Street

today, despite injuries to Jamie

Smith, Andy Roberts and Bruce

Although they are sixth in the

home win? Not necessarily.

ers, one name would flash before

your eyes again and again and

again. Hendry. Emblazoned on

the back of replica Rovers shirts

Colin Hendry, you see, is the

as far as the eye can see.

to stoke up the atmosphere during their Uefa Cup third round, second leg tie against Steaua Bucharest on Tuesday. The plan, apparently, is to scare the Steaua players into submission.

No need for such fanfare today. Coventry City were so ex-cruciatingly awful in the 2-0 defeat by Leicester City last weekend, and will be without Gary McAllister, their influential captain, this afternoon, that Villa are unlikely to need any outside assistance. McAllister is injured,



COVENTRY CITY Today, 3.0 Willie Boland is suspended and

ASTON VILLA

Coventry have never won at Villa

Park, either, It does not bode well for them "We're still upbeat and I hope our fans will be, too," Gordon Strachan, the Coventry manager, said. "We need that spirit behind

us, that relegation spirit if you like. Maybe this season we need it a bit earlier.

Even with patchy league form, one eye on the game on Tuesday and the fact that Stan Collymore, the £7 million man, is still barely able to raise a sweat, Villa should win at a canter. No reason to get carried away, though; Steaua await around the corner and are unlikely to be intimidated by a bunch of musicians.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: Easy for Villa.



BLACKBURN ROVERS BOLTON WANDERERS Today, 3.0

big thing in these parts, not so much popular as revered. As Le with Barnsley, the inspirational Scotland defender returns today Tissier is to Southampton, as Shearer is to Newcastle United. at the expense of Pedersen. The so Hendry is to Blackburn, the experiment with 4-5-1 is likely to undisputed fans' favourite - and be ditched, too, after last week's how they have missed him. Still, humbling at Old Trafford, so Gallacher should resume up a month to the day after sustaining a back injury in a 1-1 draw front alongside Sutton.

Bolton would do well not to read too much into that 4-0 defeat by Manchester United, Blackburn are better than that and will want to prove it, testing Wanderers' recent record of three successive clean sheets. Although Taggart is available after suspension and Fairclough and Cox have shrugged off injuries, the visitors' back four is likely to be unchanged.

BLACKBURN ROVERS (probable; 4-4-2): T Rovets — J Harina, S Henchis, C Hendry, G Croft — S Ripley, G Florott, T Sherwood, J Whook — K Gallscher, C Station, BOLTON WANDERERS (probable; 4-4-2): K Bierlagan — G Bergsson, A Todd, M Frish, M Whithow — J Politock, P Frandsen, A Thompson, S Selers — N Blake, D Holdsworth,

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. PREDICTION: It is a derby, so only a tentative home win.



DERBY COUNTY WEST HAM UNITED Today, 3.0

national has recovered fully from a back problem. Burton, the Jamaica forward, replaced Ronaldo in the exhibition match that preceded the World Cup draw in Marseilles on Thursday and will start this

afternoon if Smith feels the time

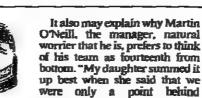
has come to rest the extraordi-

nary Wanchope. For West Ham, Lampard is in contention after a virus kept him out of the midweek win against Crystal Palace — a game in which Hartson notched his seventeenth goal in 20 games. Arsene Wenger said the next day that he had no regrets in allowing him to leave Arsenal — surely the extreme of bloody-mindedness.

DERBY COUNTY gossible; 3-4-1-2; M Poors
— G Rower, I Surriec, C Dally — R Kozkik, S
Eranko, L Carsley, C Pouell — F Balano — D
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WEST HAM UNITED gossible; 5-2-1-3; C
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Unavorin, S Lazandia — F Lampand, S Lomas
— E Berkovic — J Herison, S Abous
Referen: A Wilde

TELEVISION: Today: Metch of the Day, goal highlights.

PREDICTION: West Ham to reverse the trend in an open game.



LEICESTER CITY CRYSTAL PALACE Today, 3.0

ter City do not possess a Hartson or a Berkovic (Palace's chief tormentors at West Ham), and also have found goals hard to come by at home recently. This will not be helped by the absence of Emile Heskey, who completes FA Carling Premiership, Leices- a three-match suspension.

O'Neill, the manager, natural worrier that he is, prefers to think of his team as fourteenth from bottom. "My daughter summed it up best when she said that we were only a point behind Arsenal." he said. "I have to admit that I still look down to the gap between ourselves and the bottom three." But not, surely, as often as Palace do.

LEICESTER CITY (pachalais; 3-5-2) K Keller — S Pinz, M Elice, S Waleh — P Koamark, R Sanage, N Lerhon, M Izast, S Guppy — I Marshal, G Ferton. CRYSTAL PALACE (possible: 3-5-2) K Miller — A Linghan, P Wathurst, H Theidesson — M Edworny, I Zoher, N Emblan, S Rodger, D Gordon — M Padowano, N Shipperley Buttoner II Blasmo.

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, goal highlights. M PREDICTION: Low-scoring



TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

CHELSEA Today, 3.0 (sold out)



Dickinson There was a time not so long ago when this fixture

would have resembled the farcical Europe versus the Rest of the World curtainraiser to the World Cup draw last Thursday: two talented teams with insufficient direction helping each other to score goals. Probably no tack-

ling either. Not so nowadays, of course, with Chelsea hoping to assert themselves as Manchester United's most credible challengers in the FA Carling Premiership and a Tottenham Hotspur team, a corpse under Gerry Francis, showing the first signs of life under Chris-

tian Gross's spartan regime. Chelsea must show their mettle on this sort of occasion. Like United, they can rest some of their best players because of the depth of their squad. Like the champions. they have thrived despite losing their most dynamic mid-field player because of a cruciate ligament injury. Remember Roy Keane and Gus-

12vo Poyet? The 4-0 victory over Derby County last week suggests that Chelsea may be close to their peak. They will not be short of confidence at White Hart Lane. "August 1987: that was the last time we beat Chelsea at home." Gross, the Tottenham coach, ever metic-

ulous, said yesterday. Gross will hope that a bonding session in a hotel last night will build on the morale gained by victory over Everton, but their preparations could be undermined by a shoulder injury to Sol Campbell who is doubtful. Anderson may replace Fox in

the starting line-up.
Ruud Gullit, the Chelsea manager, may break with his policy of rotating strikers and stick with Mark Hughes who is about to begin a threematch suspension, rather than bring in Gianluca Vialli.

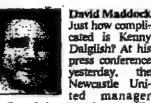
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (probable; 44-2): I Walter — S Carr, R Voga, S Campbel, C Wilson — D Ardenton, C Caldenwood, A Nedsen, A Streen — D Ginola, L Ferdinand, CHELSEA (probable; 44-2): E de Goey — F Sinclair, F Leboeut, M Dubeny, C Babayero — D Petersou, D Wilse, R Di-Marteo, G Ur Saux — G Zola, M Hughes, Radenwer, D Gallegher

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights.

PREDICTION: Chelsea to pinch a hard-fought win.

ON MONDAY

Brilliant insights or hopeless guesses? Check our writers' predictions against their weekend match reports.



press conference yesterday. Newcastle United manager indicated that Faustino Asprilla

cated is Kenny

may be ready to return to action after a two-month lay-off, following a hemia operation. Consternation. The assembled media representatives were.

thrown into confusion because Dalglish is never so straightforward as to actually give out important information such as. players' fitness. After much deliberation, the

consensus among the hard-bit-ten press men was that Daiglish was bluffing. He would only say that Asprilla could play, they mused, if in fact the Colombian striker were still unfit.

It is a mark of the complexity of the Newcastle manager that such an inquest took place. He rarely does anything without a purpose, and the chances are that Asprilla probably will start the FA Carling Premiership match against Arsenal at St James' Park today on the bench. getting a taste of the action at some stage.

His return will be welcomed by the many Newcastle supporters beginning to wonder just where their team is heading this season. Their departure from the European Cup Champions' League was followed quickly by defeat away to Bolton Wanderers and the stark realisation that perhaps the Magpies are not quite good enough to win the league this season.



NEWCASTLE UNITED ARSENAL. Today, 3.0 (sold out)

That thought struck Arsene Wenger, about his own side, at the weekend. The Arsenal manager virtually gave up the ghost after Liverpool's victory at Highbury and suggested that Manchester United were unstop-

Many people thought that this was a ploy by Wenger to put pressure on United, but he is not as complicated as Dalglish. Wenger merely says things as he sees them, and he realised last weekend that Arsenal still have

some way to go. He will not be able to make many changes to the side that, he said, played so poorly. Vieira and Parlour are unfit, and Bould and Grimandi are — surprise. surprise - suspended. Both sides need to win, so it will be an interesting struggle.

NEWCASTLE UNITED probable, 4-4-1-1), 8
Gwen — 5 Weson, D Percock, S Paster, A
Pestone — K Griespe, R'Lee, D Bath, T
Kestone — JD Tomasson — J Barnes
ARSENAL (probable; 4-4-2) D Seamsin — L
Daon, M Kenen, A Adams, N Winterburn — S
Hughes, E Petit, D Plat, M Overman — I
Whoft, D Berghamp
Reference: S Durn

TELEVISION: Today: Match of the Day, extended highlights. PREDICTION: Bore draw.



Wimbledon have been shipping water lately. Southampton, after an proved run, lost at home last weekend to Sheffield Wednesday. Neither can afford to lose

Brian Glauville

It remains to be seen whether Wimbledon's once-solid defence is as good as it was in the first half of their last home game. against Manchester United, or as bad as it was in the second,

this FA Carling Premiership

when it let in five goals. The curse of Scotland goalkeepers seems to have descended on Neil Sullivan, who, picked on contentious grounds for Scotland, gave away a goal against France and gave away the winner when Wimbledon lost to Bolton Wanderers last week. Better times may be round the

It may be profitable for Wimbledon to recall Robbie Earle, who has missed two marches, rather than to place an unwanted midfield burden on Neil Ardley, a winger by persuasion. Equally, this might be the moment to go with the new Norwegian midfield player. Stole Solbakken, who looked useful when he came on late against United. Efan Ekoku could be brought back to the attack, were Joe Kinnear, the manager, to prefer him to Marcus Gayle or the promising Carl Cort.

David Jones, a young manager of distinct promise, gradually has been making Southampton into a better side, although their





finishing also has been some-thing of a problem. However, David Hirst is finding the range and Egil Ostenstad, their Norway international striker, is back. Indeed, Ostenstad may replace Hirst this afternoon. Then there is Kevin Davies, bought from Chesterfield, in whose splendid FA Cup run he figured so impressively last season. Still only 20, quick, strong and incisive, he will score many

WIMBLEDON

SOUTHAMPTON

Tomorrow, 4.0

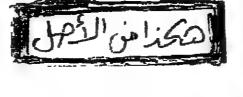
There is also the eternal, gifted maverick, Mart Le Tissier, who can turn any game with an inspired pass, a remarkable goal. Yes, he still tends to drift in and out of matches. Yes, he should have headed that goal at Chelsea. But he is exquisitely capable of making the bullets for those fine strikers to fire

WIMBLEDON (possible; 44.8; N.Sulken — K. Curninghem, C. Peny, B. Beckwell, B. Thatcher — N. Ardley, V. Jones, C. Hughes, M. Hughes — C. Cott. M. Gayla.

BOUTHARPTON (possible; 4-3-1-2); P. Jones — J. Dodd, K. Monscou, C. Lundelvern, F. Bensilt — C. Pelmer, K. Richerdson, M. Oeldey — M. La Tasser — K. Daves, E. Oelensted.

Referere M. Reed.

TELEVISION: Tomorrow: Eve on Sky Sports 1, from Spm. - 7 PREDICTION: A draw.



FOOTBALL SATURDAY

Why an early start detracts from the sense of occasion

real sense of anticipation has built up around this morning's game against Manchester United, but there is only one word I would use to describe the 11.15 kick-off — trazy. Whatever the research it is upwater. Whatever the reasons, it is unnatural for a football match to start at time especially for the fans, whatever, at 7.30am. to the ground, or work Saturday morning. I find it hard to accept that there was nothing that could be done to accommodate a more reasonable kick-off time.

It is no great hardship, but many players have a set routine and they are easily put out of their stride. For an afternoon game, 3pm is ideal because it gives time for food to be consumed properly and a sensible build-up to be followed. For an 11.15 start, we will have to be out of bed by 7 o'chock, where most players are stuck in where most players are stuck in the night before.

the routine of going to bed late and sleeping in before a match. Much worse than that, many players are superstitious and have to eat the same food before each

We kicked off early against Manchester United last season and even though it was a really important match — absolutely crucial, in fact, to both sides - the

amosphere was subdued. I felt that both sides got into their stride only when well into the game.

I am one of the lucky ones, because I am not superstitious—in fact, I can't bring myself to eat very much at breakfast time, so I will multiple the way of the lack as time, so I will multiple the same according to the same accordin will probably have some cereal and toast, and try to get my energy levels up by eating a decent meal

the players of both sides to build up the rivalry between the two clubs. The fact is, we are quite friendly. I know lots of the United players from England duty and, of course, Paul Ince played for them. He is very close to Ryan Giggs and

there is a lot of friendliness. However, I accept that there is an intense rivalry between the two sets of supporters. In many ways, this fixture has become even more passionate than the Merseyside derby for our fans. It is probably because United have dominated

the league for the past few seasons.

In the past, Liverpool were in control and United took satisfaction from beating us. Now the boot is on the other foot and I suspect that has created a little bit of jealousy among our supporters, who were used to winning things. I know I'm jealous — jealous in



win things and United have done that in recent years. No matter what our fans think of them, they are an excellent team. We're chasing them and we want what they have got, but the only way to do that is to do well in the domestic league and qualify to play on the greater European stage. That means winning our matches, not just at Antield today, but consis-

It's a small world The World Cup draw threw up some interesting prospects for

tently throughout the season.

England. I wouldn't say that it was the hardest draw of all the groups, but then it would be pretty stupid to get carried away with it as well.

It almost seems a cliché to suggest it, but the teams that have made it to the finals have to be of a decent quality to get there. The other teams in our group will be no mugs and England will have to do

well to get past them.

Colombia are a case in point. I remember the 1994 finals, when they were among the favourites to win the competition. There was a lot of money placed on them, but they then came unstuck in the

opening group stages. They are an unpredictable side, but very dangerous opponents and we all know that, in Faustino Asprilla, they have a superb centre forward. He has shown in the FA Carling Premiership how deadly he can be and we know that we will have to watch him dosely.

The good thing is that we know all about him, as we do about Petrescu, Dumitrescu and Popescu, of Romania, all of whom have played in the FA Carling Premiership. We also have the advantage of baying played advantage of having played against the national side quite recently. We played Romania and Colombia before the European championship finals. We drew against both and they both looked capable opposition. In fact, I played one of my first games for England against Colombia.

It would be nice, of course, if I could play against them again in the World Cup finals, but that is too far ahead. Whoever makes it into the England squad will have to prove their worth over the

Thanks for the memory

On Thursday, I was present at the unveiling of a ribute to Bill Shankly and the opening of the Liverpool Visitor Centre. It was a moving tribute to a great man. The Shankly era had long passed when arrived at Anlield, but his

He was a great character and his spirit still touches everyone.

Roy Evans and Ronnie Moran worked under Bill and they say not only what a great manager he was, but a wonderful man, too. Most important of all, he produced results. He won promotion for Liverpool and established the club as one of the most successful in history. It is important to remember that tradition, even as football heads off into a completely different era. Shankiy possessed a passion for Liverpool Football Club that should never be for-

I received recently a tape by John Keith, a journalist who knew Shanks well, which sums up the great man. He has put together some of the many, many stories and anecdotes — the legend — that has built up around Shankly and it

is very entertaining.

He was genuinely funny and had an astute football brain. The tapes have been very popular around Merseyside, because they tap into the essentials of the man. He was honest and down to earth and was loved by our supporters, who still talk about him now. Shanks For The Memory, by John Keith, Mastersound, is available from outlets around

STEVE MCMANAMAN

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

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2. Chelsea	35	2.19
3. Arsenal	30	1.87
4. Derby	28	1.87
5. Sheffield Wed	28	1.75
6. Liverpool	26	1.78
Blackburn	27	1.69
8, Leeds	26	1,62
9. West Ham	24	1,50
10. Leicester	21	1,31
11. Newcastle	18	1.29
12. Southampton	20	1.25
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COVERAGE.

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TELEVISION: Today: BBC1: Footbak Focus, from 12.20pm; Match of the Day. from 10.50pm. Sky Sports 1: Premiership.
Liverpool v Manchester United (live), from 10.30sm, Tomorrow: BBC1: Match of the Day (repeat), from 7am. Channel 4:
Footbell Italia, AC Mean v Berl (Iwe), from 1.10pm, Sky Sports 1: Premiership, Wirribladon v Southempton (Iwe), from
Spm; Spanish league, Real Sociedad v Valencia (live), from 6.30pm; FA Cup second round highlights, from 8.30pm.
RADIO: Today: BBC Radio 5 Liver: Commentary on Liverpool v Manchesier United in Sport on Pive, from 11am (and
other Premiership malches). Tomorrow: BBC Radio 5 Live: Commentary on Wimbleon v. Southempton and Rangers v Hibernian in Sunday Sport, Itom 1pm.
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Statistics compiled by Julian Desborough

Dixon demands lion-hearted display from Scots

By MARK SOUSTER

FOR Ian McGeechan and Jim Tait could not even be consid-Telfer, the British Isles tour to eternity ago. Six months ago they were the architects of the British Lions' success in platting one of the great sporting upsets. Today their opponents are again the Springboks, but the environment and the challenge is radically different as must be their expectations for Scotland as they prepare to meet the world champions at Murravfield.

McGeechan and Telfer are now an integral part of the Scotland set-up, lending their considerable experience and support to Richie Dixon, the and his assistant. David Johnston. But even they cannot make gold out of lead. In South Africa they had the cream of the British Isles with which to work and mould into a series-winning side: now the resources at their disposal are considerably slimmer, indeed threadbare after a spate of

Stewart Campbell has a knee injury, but the odds are that he will be fit. If not. Stuart Grimes, of Watsonians, will come in. The fact that Tom Smith, Doddie Weir and Alan

ered and Grant McKelvey, the hooker, was a late withdrawal only reinforces the magnitude of the task facing Scotland. Gordon Bulloch, the 21-yearold Glasgow captain, replaces McKelvey and wins his first cap after touring the republic in the summer. "I have seen what South African rugby is like, but this is a vast step up,"

If nothing else Dixon, and an increasingly disillusioned public, must hope that the spineless performance against Australia a fortnight ago is not repeated. That earned the team unflattering headlines such as "Shower of Scotland". "It is going to take a

tremendous improvement in the blood and guts department." Dixon said vesterday. The first thing is we have to show commitment. These guys [Scotland] have been on the floor, but they are now in the right frame of mind and know their responsibilities. We are giving away a lot in weight, but if Scotland get everything right we will have a chance — but it will have to be everything."

It could be argued that the



The haka, performed by the All Blacks since 1905, has become a symbol of pride and manhood. Photograph: Simon Bruty/Allsport

aybe if the Ali Blacks adopted ceremonial dress for the haka, as first performed by the all-Maori touring team of 1888, they could silence a chorus of Swing Low at Twickenham today. Imagine, too, the beetle-browed Richard Cockerill attempting to stare down a strutting Norm Hewitt, resplendent in ostrich-feather cape and tasselled cap.

The caps were doffed as the players iumped at the end of the haka, to which Cockerill, presumably, would stamp on the dandy beadgear. It would be a fascinating preliminary. As it is, Cockerill and England's response (the hokey-cokey, perhaps) is as eagerly awaited as the 80 minutes that will follow New Zealand's call to arms.

Was respect for the haka, which Trafford a fortnight ago? Cockerill's eyeballing challenge offended John Hart, the All Blacks' coach, but not everyone in New Zealand shared his sense of indignity. As much as tradition is bound up by the haka, it is plain that psychological foreplay has transcended cultural showmanship. The All Blacks originally per-

formed the haka — it means "a dance" - as a non-bellicose, prematch diversion for the crowds. All that changed during the first World Cup in Australasia in 1987, won by New Zealand, when the haka became manhood, which Wayne Shelford. 2

Song and dance deserves respect

Christopher Irvine looks at the history of the haka, a Maori ritual from 1820 adopted by the All Blacks

Hika Reid, the last Maori All Blacks hooker before Hewitt, said: "There was a sense of putting on a show, but I found the haka a great way to get psyched up. It appealed to my traditions. The trouble before 1987 was that the Pakehas [Europeans] simply went through the motions

Ka mate! Ka mate! Ka ora! Ka ora!

Ka mate! Ka mate! Ka ora! Ka Ora!

Nana nei i te tiki mai whakawhiti te ra

Who has caused the sun to shine again

Tenei te tangata puhuruhuru

Behold the brave man

It is death! It is death! It is life! It is life!

"I looked at him [Shelford] and thought, There's a warrior who's really proud of his country." Tuigamala said. "The haka gives all New Zealanders an identity and is a challenge to the opposition. I try to do it well to let people know how I feel Some didn't even know the words. It about my country. It unites all our didn't have much meaning." Until he saw Shelford performing

THE HAKA EXPLAINED

formances became synonymous with

the ritual, had not taken much notice.

however, was clearly the purpose of Maori troops who purportedly went into a haka routine before hand-tohand fighting in the desert cam-paigns of the Second World War. Not that any warlike tones are attached to the "Ka mate" haka as the haka, Va'aiga Tuigamala, whose tongue-flicking, cycball-popping per-

performed by the All Blacks since 1905. It is common Maori practice to adapt existing haka and the version today is only a portion of a long chant attributed in 1820 to Te Rauparaha, a warrior chief. He escaped his enemies by being hidden in a kumara (sweet potato) storage pit, while a local chief and his wife created a diversion, followed by Te Rauparaha's getaway by primitive ladder and an exultant cry of freedom.

No All Black, past or present, will say that it is used to try to intimidate the opposition. "Some players might find it intimidating, but that was not

my intention." Tuigamala said. That.

t is a dance of triumph and exultation. Cockerill might have overstepped physical boundaries by going nose-to-nose with Hewitt, but if the haka is designed as a challenge, then the England hooker took it, literally, at face value. As Reid remarked, there are few greater offences than ignoring the haka. David Campese, the former Australia wing, did it once and no selfrespecting New Zealander will forgive him.

Englan would probably be advised to avoid any confrontation. Are you listening. Mr Cockerill?

incel, 17 P F Smith (Griqueland West), 18 D van 24 (Mpumalangs), 18 A D Arthen (W Provincel, 20 W Meyer (Free State), 21 A E Drotske (Free State) (Wasps), 17 D W Hodge (Watsonian 18 G Armstrong (Newcastle), 19 P Wallon (Newcastle), 19 G Grafism St Mary's prepare to be hailed again

FROM KARL JOHNSTON IN DUBLIN

IT IS far too early to predict that pair have been augmentthat the meeting this afternoon of the south Dublin suburban neighbours. Terenure College and St Mary's College, at Lakelands Park will decide the destiny of the AIB League title. but it appears an interesting

Last season, Terenure fin-

ished third in the first division.

REPLACEMENTS: 18 K M Logan

behind Lansdowne and the winners. Shannon, while St Mary's were a point behind. Both clubs have begun this term with victories. St Mary's with a facile one over Blackrock College, and Terenure with a less emphatic success against Cork Constitu-Terenure and Lansdowne, soon to meet in the Kiny O'Shea Leinster championship final, can lay claim to be the Dublin favourites for league honours, but the smart money seems to be on St Mary's, even though Shannon do not appear nota-

bly worried. The St Mary's star has been rising because of its rising stars. Last season, the club's only international players were Denis Hickie and Victor Costello, the latter returning after a less than auspicious run with London Irish. Now,

ed by three new Ireland play- Kevin Nowlan, the full back. Conor McGuinness, the scrum half, and McWeeney, the left wing. True, McWeeney was demoted after his debut against the Ali Blacks three weeks ago, but Nowlan, with two, McGuinness and Costello all scored tries in the defeat of

Canada last Sunday. By contrast, Terenure have a paucity of household names. their sole international being the former Ireland full back. Ciaran Clarke, although David Coleman, the right wing, toured New Zealand with the development squad last summer. But they have some useful forwards, among them James Blaney, the hooker, and Peter Bruce, the tight head, who featured with Leinster on a few occasions earlier

this season. Lansdowne, the other Leinster front-runners, are away to Blackrock today, while Ballymena should pick up another two points from their visit to Old Belvedere at Anglesea Road. Dungannon could do likewise in their home match against Cork Constitution.

Racecourse Ground to stage 1999 World Cup game

Aue upane! Aue kaupane! Upane! Kaupane! Whiti te ra!
Up the ladder! Up and up! Into the light of the sun!

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

Honiball, who is replaced by

Jannie de Beer at fly half, the

pressure on South Africa has

eased. Like New Zealand, the

Springboks want to make a

In Edinburgh they have appeared relaxed and confi-

dent and talk warmly of the

difference that Mallett and his

style of man-management has

made, "It is a breath of fresh

air." Gary Teichmann, the

captain has said. They do not

underestimate Scotland who

have something to prove: but

now that the shackles have

been removed they know they

have the all-round ability to

In 1994, the last time that

they played at Murraylield,

South Africa did just that,

winning 34-10. Joost van der

Westhuizen, who is injured.

scored two of their five tries

that day. Should James Small

emulate Van der Westhuizen's

achievement this afternoon, he

will overtake Danie Gerber as

his country's leading try-

Telfer accepts that Scotland.

realistically, do not have a

prayer. They have reacted very well to what happened in

the summer. They have changed their game plan and

are far more expansive," he

said. "Mallett has given them

their head. Beating them will

be the greatest achievement

run the Scots ragged.

WREXHAM has been awarded one of the group games in the 1999 World Cup after successfully hosting this season's international etween Wales and Romania. The Weish Rugby Union (WRU) confirmed yesterday that Wrexham Football Club's Racecourse Ground and Stradey Park, Llanelli, would be the two additional venues in Wales's qualifying pool. A capacity 12,000 crowd saw Wales rattle up

have been in touch with the local council at Wrexham, and are hopeful that building work will be completed in time to allow an increased capacity of 25,000."

Wales will play their fixtures at the £120 million Millennium Stadium, which is under construction on the former Cardiff Arms Park

The WRU also confirmed that Twickenham

final hetween Cardiff and Swansea was the las game staged at Cardiff Arms Park before demolition work began.

Meanwhile, Cardiff and the Welsh Rugby Union are poised to settle their differences and finalise a ten-year loyalty agreement next week. The Arms Park club are the only side from the eight-strong Welsh premier division not to have signed a formal contract with the WRU.

70 points against Romania in August. Terry is being considered as a possible location for Cobner, the WRU director of rugby, said: "We this season's Welsh Cup final. Last season's recent weeks in our negotiations, and there are now only one or two Glanmor Griffiths, the WRU chairman, said. Once Cardiff reach arrangement, they will be paid around £220,000 in back payments from

the union. The England A and Combined Services winger, Brian Johnson, who scored 27 tries for Newbury last season, is joining Gloucester on a month's loan with a view to a permanent move.

TIMES RUGBY UNION STATISTICS THE TIMES WORLD RUGBY UNION TABLE England v New Zealand 12.50 10.00 17.00 0.00 230 115 85 164 245 501 502 328 562 640 636 387 446 551 sed on all tull internationals played since the World Cup (June 1995) RECORD AGAINST 1995 WORLD CUP TOP FOUR 2" 3 80.00 53.85 MATCH-BY-MATCH TRIES PER INTERNATIONAL MATCH 94 00 6.00









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All Blacks set for grand finale

RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE air of youthful optimism that rose with Clive Woodward's first selection as England coach - was it only a month ago? - has been tempered by the cold blast of reality. Today at Twickenham, England draw their autumn series of internationals against the southern-hemisphere powers to a close in the knowledge that only the most supreme optimist would back them to beat New Zealand.

"I'm disappointed that we haven't collected one win from this series so far, but I'm putting my style on the line," Woodward said. "I want to get to the World Cup in 1999 with a team that the whole of England genuinely feels can win the tournament. I have a playing philosophy and I will go into the five nations' next



ENGLAND'S AUTUMN **CHALLENGE**

year even more focused on keeping the ball in band and trying to score tries.

"In the last ten years, Eng-land have been bottom of the league at scoring tries and I'm determined to change that. It's not easy to turn that round. overnight and the biggest part of it is getting numbers one to. eight to buy into it, to understand what I'm trying to do. We're not going to beat the All Blacks by purnmelling them in the scrums and lineouts, even though if we play that way we might beat Scotland, Ireland and Wales and, sometimes, France,

Regardless of the results, the last month has been brilliant because it has given me a clear understanding of where

Already. Woodward has a complete accord with his captain, Lawrence Dallagho, on



Cockerill, the England hooker, relaxes during training at Twickenham. Photograph: Stefan Rousseau

the way forward and a team, half of them under 25, who seek to prove themselves in the highest company. He has also been encouraged by the redisappointment — Tim Rodber, out with concussion, and Mark Regan, who nearly forced his way back in at hooker with a storming game for England A against the All Blacks on Tuesday.

However, with the best will in the world, it is hard to see the Royal and SunAlliance international at Twickenham as more than a holding operapositive elements of the first. game between the countries at Old Trafford a formight ago. when New Zealand won 25-8. They should not be over-whelmed at the set pieces, but there is a general acknowledgement among the coach-ing fraternity that individual skills linger behind those of

It is not only the application

of those skills, but where to

apply them. New Zealanders

game and how it will develop, whereas too much play in England appears to be by numbers. Hence the appearance of the two All Blacks locks, Ian Jones and Robin

have an instinctive feel for the Brooke, at Old Trafford in the movements that led to firsthalf tries, the first scored by Jones himself.

international try, with one

exception: Norman Hewitt,

the bald barrel of a hooker

limited by Sean Fitzpatrick's

longevity to only seven ap-

nearances, several as a re-

placement. You would not bet

gainst him putting that right

The All Blacks believe that

they failed to do themselves

justice in Manchester, per-

haps thrown by the clout

suffered after only six minutes

by Justin Marshall, their cap-

tain, which cost Martin John-

son, of England, a one-match

suspension. Yet there has been

an undaunted quality to the

English displays throughout

this tour: only at Huddersfield

were Emerging England over-

whelmed by the All Blacks

and Marshall, for one, con-

cedes that they can derive encouragement from the

events of the past three weeks.

They realise that they can

take the game to us and we

knew they would play well in

the first test," the scrum half

said. "England put pressure on us, a lot more than the Irish

this afternoon, either.

It is a remarkable statistic that every member of this New Zealand team has scored an

TODAY'S TEAM	S AT TWICKENHAM
ROLAND."	NEW ZEALAND -
BLP and VICE III	15 " C M Cullen (Manawatt)
	14 J W Wilson (Otago)
A STATE OF THE PARTY OF THE PAR	23 F.E. Bunce (North Harbour)
K 100 ALCOHOLIO (SZRA)	12 W K Little (North Harbour)
	10 A.P Mebricus (Canteroury)
EP Bricken (Saraceos)	W. Marshall (Canterbury)*
Reogard (Harlequins)	1 M R Allen (Manewall)
Cockedit (Leicester)	2 N J Hewitt (Southland)
Luciorth (heicester)	3 O M Brown (Auckland)
U Johnson (Leicester)	4 D Jones (North Herbour)
S.Aircher (Biewcestie)	R M Brooke (Auckland)
B.A. Dallagliot (Masps)	T C Randell (Otago)
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A HIII (Saraceas), Salar Vin.	E Z Y Brooks (Auckland)
Apple O	Captain
The Release LM F	leming (Scotland)
PLACEMENTS IN 1) Signoso	n REPLACEMENTS: 18 S. J. McLaco (Walketo), 17 C. Spenote (Auckland).
orthalopton), 18:D I Grewcock.	18.J.P.Pieston (Wellington)
process) 19 CM A Sheasty	19 C C Riechelmann (Airckland),
ason), 20 K Yates (Bath)	20 C K Berrell (Contembury),
M.P. Ressen (Bath)	25.4T Olver (Otatio)

Against opponents of the highest quality, however, England have still to cultivate the knack of turning pressure into points and John Hart, the New Zealand coach, contends that they will not do so until they establish a playing phi-losophy between coaches and referees. "I think there is some confusion in the English game," Hart said, "not only in the structure, but in the way they are playing the game.

Attitudes are driven by coaches and it's crucial to have a more cohesive coaching programme. The other key ue is consistency of refereeing. You can't have a philosophy towards the game until you have that consistency. One of the reasons southernhemisphere rugby is going so well is because there is total cohesion between coaches and referees." Hart has winced at some of the refereeing that he has seen on this tour, when the game's most important law, that of advantage, has been

Today, northern-hemi-sphere officials take charge, Jim Fleming at Twickenham and Patrick Thomas, of France, at Murrayfield. Flem-Scottish official, will have been interested to hear the sugges tion made yesterday by Roger Unley, the England manager that "every time we get the ball in their 22, the whistle goes, giving us a penalty. Southernhemisphere countries are happy to concede penalties rather than letting us have the ball fromm a ruck or a maul, because we could score a try

from that position." Such criticism will be meat and drink to Hart, who is delighted that, after the hardest of years, his players retain a freshness and enthusiasm that bodes ill for England. They have the motivation: an unbeaten record, not only for the tour but for the year; a farewell to arms for Zinzan Brooke ("I wonder if there has quite his skill set," Hart said) and a tribute to Fitzpatrick, the injured captain, who must watch from the stands. On a frosty day, New Zealand seem set to light the fire.

Harsh lessons should point did, though last week's game against Wales was much way ahead for future success

ugby followers in England will look at the series which we are engaged and see two defeats and a draw; that is the position, in black and white, and it will be difficult for them to draw much comfort from the dogged defence that has been a feature of the games played by New Zealand

during their tour. Yet I have been encouraged by the discovery that, in specific areas, we can compete with the All Blacks - and anyone else - and the knowledge that our players will improve Eng-lish players will win plenty of first and second-phase ball, but we have to look seriously at what happens after that, at sustaining the continuity of play that leads

More than 80 per cent of all games are won by the team scoring the most tries, which, given the difference In scoring values, is not that remarkable. We have scored two tries in three games, so it is quite clear that we have both to create more chances and to finish

Take the garoe against South Africa last week, when we finished on the end of a record home defeat. A minute before half-time, we were 11-0 up and should have turned round 25 or 30 points to the good. What I define as a scoring chance may differ from something clear-cut, like a knock-on just short of the line - it's the decision made by a player to attack a side of the field from deep where there

defenders. should have attacked the side where there are During

that first half, when we dominated possession and territory, there were times when South Africa's defence was at sixes and sevens and we failed to capitalise on that. It's a question of vision and continuity, while, at the same time, remaining tight de-fensively. We pride ourselves on our one-to-one tackling, but two of their tries were scored because

we failed in that area. We have to rid ourselves of the tendency to kick when we think we are not making ground quickly enough, first because we need to develop the confidence that, by keeping the ball in hand, we can turn mediocre possession into good possession and, second, because when we do kick, it has to be inchperfect, given the quality of counter-attacking runners in opposing ranks.

We also have to ensure that every player is in-volved, otherwise we will not have examined everyone's potential properly. At Leicester on Tuesday, neither of the England A wings touched the ball in open play - but the counterpoint to that is that every single player has to demonstrate that he wants to be involved.

I appreciate that some of our opponents this season possess wonderful natural skills that would allow them to be comfortable in any environment, but I also believe that the skills of our players are there and that it is our responsibility to allow them expression in the



work; much of that comes from confidence. New Zealanders play with total confidence, everyone is aware of their part in the team and how they can bring their talents to bear.

Nevertheless, we remain excited about this testing series of games and there is tremendous anticipation over the game with New Zealand today. The All Blacks went away from Twickenham on their last appearance, in 1993, when they iost 15-9, and revolutionised their game, taking it to heights never have to be brutally honest and say that if we continue to play only in a way with which we are comfortable, it won't be good enough to best them or the Springboks. That is why this series may be the most important that we have

played.

today be-

cause of his

concussion. He has his

'We need to remove the tendency to kick'

he is far too good a player to leave out. Decisionmaking is part and parcel of the fly half's responsibility and that challenge now falls to Paul Grayson. who has already demonstrated his ability to control the game in the five nations'

championship.
This, though, is a different level and we are looking forward to seeing how Paul responds, how the whole team responds. I would like to think that Paul can play in the same forceful way as Mike, because we are not going out to change radically what we have been trying to-do so far.

is how we react to adversity that will create winners. All the best players have bad games Sean Fitzpatrick was here at Twickenham in 1993 and I regret his absence today because he is an extremely committed the Ali Black renaissance and their development in the professional era.

If this, too, is to be Zinzan Brooke's last game. then we will say goodbye to a great warrior for the All Blacks, one who has shown the ability to do what few other players would even try. There have been some harsh words spoken since we met at Old Trafford, but no bad blood has spilled over among the players. I have tremendous respect for the All Blacks -I would like to think that they will end their tour with the same feeling for

David Hands charts the course of an outstanding All Black career that spans ten years and three World Cups

day when, as one of a class of five-year-olds, several of Brooke opted for the corrup-tion of his grandmother's maiden name, Zinzano, and added his birthdate — St

p game

whom were named Murtay, he put up his hand in answer to the teacher's suggestion that some of those present should change their name. Young Valentine's Day.
Today at Twickenham.
Zinzan Valentine Brooke will

run out for the hundredth and last time in the All Black strip. The 73,000 gathered there should make the most of it, for this is one of the most talented footballers of his generation not the most capped, even though 58 internationals in the past ten years speak for themselves, but one of the most flamboyant and unpredictable

It has been Brooke's cross that his skills are such that few, if any, coaches have been able to slip him into a convenient pigeonbole he has played in all three back-row positions but only in the past three years, remarkable though it now seems, has he become a permanent fixture. To be fair to the New Zealand selectors, they have been able to choose from a rich crop of loose forwards. Brooke grew up during the era of Wayne Shelford and, as a No 8, had to stand comparison with the

great man. He was also part of the revisionist generation that demanded change from the 1991

Brooke the entertainer signs off

Cup, part of the successful Ancidand squad that general-ed so much jealousy elsewhere in the country that he had to convince a sceptical Laurie Mains firom Otago in the South Island) that Mains should pick him for the 1995 World Cup.

Yet he has become an icon. The new, liberated laws of the last two years were tailormade for Brooke's loose-limbed athleticism, for his vision and multi-faceted skills. Ask Eric Miller, of Ireland and the British Isles, which player he holds in the highest regard and the answer is Brooke, the No 8 who not only scores tries but drops goals in internation als - as England, South

Africa and, last Saturday, Wales will tell you. Brooke, born in Waiuku, to the south of Auckland, grew up on his parents' farm in Walkworth, the fourth of six children of whom five were boys. Marty, his older brother, reached All Black trials, Robin, the younger, has played 43 times in the New Zealand second row; it was on the farm that he learnt to kick a ball, from one kauni tree to another. in competition with his sibone of his most distinctive features. "I have never enjoyed playing for fun," he says.
The local club ran only two nunior teams, under-10s and under-15s; after that, if you were good enough, you played in the seniors and the Brooke brothers were good enough. At 16. Zinzan learnt his trade with the men: "You had to learn how to survive but the skills came from hours of practice in

the garden," he said. "But

when I look back now, I didn't have half the skills of some of the 10 to 12-year-olds I see today. They're doing stuff I did at 19 or 20; it's unreal." full back and fly half until Sandy, his father, suggested a move to the pack. It is an unnerving thought that he played at loose-head prop for the New Zealand Under-)? team and only afterwards

1987 World Cup, against New Zealand might have lost him after a difficult 1993,

moved to the back row where,

as an open-side flanker, he

won his first cap during the

when a contract to play in Japan was almost signed and sealed. Brooke's fate in sides selected by Mains was uncertain and he sought a career in which he could play and be rewarded for doing so. It took a deal with Sky Television to ensure that he remained at home and played in the 1995 World Cup in South Africa.

It also paved the way for a fresh career direction. He started, in his own words, as an ambassador for the TV station, making public appearances; now he has a contract for his own informal. Sports Cafe-style talkshow, which has achieved cult status.

Next year, however, he arrives at the Stoop Memorial Ground to take up a two-year contract with those perennial under-achievers, Harlequins: "I have been planning this since last year," he said. "I always knew 1997 would be my last year and it will give me a chance to step away from the game in New Zealand. I know that if I don't have the physical break, I'll get itchy feet and want to start playing

When the time comes for my last game with the All Blacks I won't be that emotional about it because I've pre-pared for it." Yet even free spirits get caught up in the occasion: beneath the West Stand at Twickenham today. Brooke will go through the familiar routine. He will see the other black shirts around him and will know the need to perform for them that is key to any New Zealand side - they. in turn, will do so for him and England will be on the receiv-



Brooke will play his last international match this afternoon



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England's one-day specialists make winning start to their tour programme

Hollioake confirms captaincy potential

toss): England XI beat Pakistan A by 35 runs

IF THE Champions Tournament, in which England join for the first time next week. gives them an ideal opportuni-ty to measure themselves against three other international sides in a competitive atmosphere, the two one-day games they are playing here represent useful practice. To win as they did in the first of them last night, under lights, makes it doubly useful.

One man's performance was particularly important. Adam Hollicake was appointed captain of this 14-man party to gauge his fitness as cricketer and leader with a view to retaining him as the England one-day captain all the way to the World Cup in 1999. Mich-ael Atherton, the Test captain, is not here, and is by no means certain of his place in the oneday side. Hollioake succeeded on both counts yesterday, making 86 good runs, and then taking two wickets at a crucial stage of the game. It seems he can do little wrong in this type of cricket.

Last summer he hit the winning run in all three Texaco Trophy internationals against Australia, although he found it difficult to translate that form into the five-day arena when the Test series

Yesterday, he handled his players in the middle with a grass making life awkward for the fielders, but England

stuck to their guns.

Douggie Brown, of Warwickshire, took two wickets at either end of the innings and, besides Hollioake, Ealham also took a couple. Ealham achieved the important breakthrough when Akhtar Sarfraz, a handsome left-hander who had progressed to 69, chipped an easy catch to mid-wicket. Thereafter Pakistan lacked the resources to tilt at England's total of 264 for nine.

England left out Croft, Martin and Knight, although they will get a chance in the second match tomorrow. The side included no fewer than nine players who consider themselves bowlers, but Hollioake did not turn to his younger brother, Ben, Hick or Thorpe. In fact Hollioake minor had a quiet match making only four at No 3 before he drove to midwicket, where Shahid Nazir held a superb catch.

It was Nazir's third catch because he had already held a very good one by his boots to remove Stewart and a decent one to send back Ally Brown, whose first seven scoring strokes were boundaries. When Thorpe followed the younger Hollioake back to the pavilion, England had lost three wickets to successive

hearts and the captain immedtogether with Hick, who was



Adam Hollioake swings lustily to square leg during an impressive innings of 86 yesterday. Photograph: Graham Chadwick/Allsport

PARISTAN A
Shahid Ahdi Ibw b D R Brown
Mohammad Ramma Ibw b D R Bro
Bebar Zaman c and b Gales
Alchar Sariza c Thorpe b Ealham ...
Yound Youhare II Simen b A J Holis
Nesem Ashar Saria

considerable style until Hick, having reach his 50, tried to cut Afridi's googly and played

Eatham went immediately, yorked by Afridi's quicker ball which is very quick indeed for a wrist spinner — and Douggie Brown was run out seeking a second run. Fleming, however, coming in at No 9, proved more durable. He made 29 from 25 balls before the innings closed and did well to ensure that England batted out their 50 overs. They were vital runs in the circumstances.

Hollicake was not happy to be given out leg-before as he attempted to whip Fazi-i-Akbar off his pads, though it seemed a reasonable shout. In all he faced 99 balls, finding

entitled to think a century lay within his compass. clearing it with a lovely

SCOREBOARD FROM LAHORE

He manipulated the strike

17, he made a century off 38 balls against Sri Lanka, the How well England could fastest in the history of one-day internationals. He took on contain Pakistan depended to a large extend on how Afridi set off. Last year, at the age of

the Australians last winter, with some success, and did not try to hide his intentions here. It was with great pleasure, and not a little relief, that Douggie Brown defeated him

with a ball that would clearly have hit the stumps. The bowler won another appeal two overs later and when Giles caught and bowled Babar Zaman with his first ball

the match was evenly

It was then that Sarfraz began to play extremely well. FALL OF WICKETS: 1-24, 2-40, 3-73, 4-197, 5-167, 6-178, 7-204, 8-219, 8-228 nised by the selectors because for the trip to Sharjah and the

his batting yesterday was im-pressive. They are never short of decent young players in this country.

He survived the loss of Yousaf Youhana, who was stumped neatly by Stewart down the leg side, and a requirement of seven runs an over was not beyond him until Ealham's slower ball deceived him. The game slipped away from Pakistan after that and England closed in on victory

with renewed purpose.

It had been a long day, extended by an hour's break for prayers during the England innings and an interval cleared the dew from the grass with a big rope. So far as was a day (and half a night)

NETBALL

Murtagh eager to end poor tradition

TRADITIONALLY, at this time of year, England put their reputation on the line in a series of interna-tional matches and if the opposition is New Zea-land, as it is this year, traditionally England get well beaten.

In 47 meetings England have defeated New Zealand once - by a single goal 18 years ago. Now they have three more chances to improve on that record, in Brighton today, Birmingham on Wednesday and Newcastle next Saturday.

New Zealand are rather quaintly known as the Silver Ferns, but do not be strong and fast, and they are used to winning. They are ranked No 3 in the world but that is something of a sore point. A poor performance against South Africa at the world championships two years ago saw them finish third overall when they were expecting to do a lot better. But at least they beat England in the brouze medal play-off, leaving England to finish fourth

England, however, have a new spring in their step. Mary Beardwood, and a healthy bank balance thanks to lottery funding. England will be led by

Fiona Murtagh, the cap-tain since 1996. She began her sports career as a middle-distance runner but, uninspired by endless laps of the track, happened upon netball when a friend suggested she visit the local club. Coached by the former England captain, Pat Caine, Murtagh pushed her way through the ranks until now, at the age of 30, she is one of the more senior figures in Beardwood's young squad.

The changes over the years have been amazing." Murtagh said. "The players are physically bigger speed of the game has improved. There is a lot of strength and power -- it is controlled but it is good to

At 5ft 7in and with 82 caps to her name Murtagh has the size, speed and experience to take care of herself on the court but even so she is prepared for trouble. With liberal, if illegal, use of flailing elbows, a fair amount of skirt tugging and tripping. netball is not the genteel girls' school game that it

appears. "In Jamaica two years ago I finished one match with two black eyes," she said, "and as for Australia and New Zealand, they just drive straight through you because they are so much stronger. But any guy I've introduced to netball has always been impressed with what goes on and the skill involved." Murtagh is retiring as an international after the Commonwealth Games next September.

Atapattu's defiance foiled by Chauhan

By Our Sports Staff

opener, fell two runs short of a century yesterday as Sri Lanka replied cautiously to India's first-innings total of 512 on the third day of the third and final

Test in Bombay yesterday. Ampattu, who hit 15 boundaries during his 403-minute innings, was the mainstay of. his side's determined attempt to avoid the follow-on. Sri Lanka were 286 for five at the close, and would have been better placed but for a middle order collapse late in the day.

Rajesh Chauhan took three wickers for 34 from 24 overs as India fought back to keep alive the possibility of a result. Resuming at 66 for one.

Atapattu and Kumara Dharmasena took the score to 179 before Dharmasena fell to a catch by Anii Kumble off Chauban for 40. Atapattu was caught su-

perbly by Ajay Judeja, a substitute fielder, at silly point off Chauhan. Rohan Mahanama made a breezy 20 before being caught by Kumble off Venkatesh

MARVAN ATAPATTU, the Prasad, the seam bowler. Arjuna Ranatunga, the captain, prodded at a turning ball from Chauhan and was dismissed for one.

Aravinda de Silva, dropped twice, remained unbeaten on 48 and Hashan Tillekeratne was on 4.

Kumble bowled tightly, but Javagal Srinath, the seam bowler, lost control and conceded 92 runs from 20 overs on a pitch giving him some

INDIA: First Innings 512 (S.C. Garguly 173), S.R. Tondukar (AB. R.S. Dravid 93) S R Tondular 148 R S Drand 905
S R Lanker Feet Innings
S T Jayasunya c Adharuden b Kumble 66
M S Arasatru c sub b Chauhan 91
H D P K Dharmasen a Kumble 6
B Chauhan 68
R S Minhanatra c Kumble 6 Pracad 27
P A de Sika not out 64
"A Rondunga c Acharuder b Chauhan 14 P Telekerane not out 65
Edias (b 2 86 8 4 4, no 11) 20

fl. K. L. de Saha, W. P. U. J. C. Vaas. G. P. Wick romasingho and K. R. Pushpakumara to

BOWLING Senath 20-1-92-0 Present 14-4

Malcolm moves in attempt to reinvigorate Test career

FALL OF WICKETS[,] 1-49, 2-65, 3-65, 4-65, 5-170, 6-172, 7-196, 8-234, 9-252.

DEVON MALCOLM ended speculation about his future by joining Northamptonshire from Derbyshire yesterday. and said he saw the move as the first step towards regaining his enthusiasm for cricket after the disappointment of missing out on England's tour

of the West Indies. The 34-year-old fast bowler was left out of the tour party despite reclaiming his Eng-land place last summer and featuring in four of the six Testsagainst Australia.

The Jamaican-born Malcolm said that his omission had forced him to examine his career and, following a season of unrest at Derbyshire in the aftermath of a walkout by the captain, Dean Jones, he had decided that the time was right to move on.

Malcolm has signed a three-year contract with Northamptonshire, where he FALL OF WICKETS 1-65, 2-180, 3-219, 4 259, 5 269 will form a lively pace attack next season alongside his former Derbyshire teammate. Paul Taylor, and the Australia seamer, Paul Umpires: A V Jayaprakash (India) and S A Bucknor (West Indies)

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF "When I made the decision

to move, there were a hell of a lot of things which had to be taken into consideration," Malcolm said. "I had to think of my family and what is going to happen beyond.

"I was looking for extra direction and extra motivation to get myself back into the England side, and I thought Northants was the right place to play cricket for the next



three years or so. I've been at Derby for 14 years and had a great time there. The members and the Derby people have shown a lot of affection towards me, but you have to move on and I think now is the right time to do it."

Malcolm's decision signals the end of competition for his services between Northamptonshire and Worcestershire since he became a free agent on November 1 - a situation which intensified after he rejected Derbyshire's offer of new contract earlier this

However, Steve Coverdale, the Northamptonshire chief executive, said: "Although there has been a lot of speculation about other clubs, the contract and everything was agreed several weeks ago and we are delighted Devon has decided to join Northamptonshire.

"He is perhaps the most popular player in English cricket at the present time, and much admired as a cricketer and personality throughout the world."

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

Series whitewash in Wasim's sights

By Our Sports Staff

WASIM AKRAM, Pakistan's captain, is determined to complete the first clean sweep over West Indies for 69 years in the third Test starting in Karachi today, his side having gained victories by an innings in the first two games of the series. "It is now an obsession for me." Wasim said. "It has never happened in

69 years and won't happen this time," promised Courtney Walsh, who could be leading West indies for the last time. West Indies last lost a series by a 3-0 margin on their 1928 tour

of England. Makolm Marshall the coach, with an eye on England's forthcoming visit said: Most of the batsmen will be playing for their places. The selectors back home won't tolerate any more poor performances."

The touring side will be looking for a greater contribution from Brian Lara whose scores in the first two Tests were three, 37, 15 and one. Lara's appointment as captain of Warwickshire for next season has run into trouble with a section of the supporters. Members are planning to circulate a petition questioning the way he appeared to be rushed into the job as replacement for Tim Munton. Dennis Amiss, the chief executive, said: "The reasons

behind the club's decision have not been properly chronicled. Next week we will be sending a letter to all members which will set out the club's case. All I would ask is that they look at this before putting their name to any protest."

The pennion organisers are concerned that "disagreements within the West Indies side could spread into Warwickshire's dressing-room." The England Under-19

team's opening tour fixture, against Western Cape Academy, petered out as a draw yesterday, the side settling for batting practice after being set 244 in 44 overs, a prospect deemed unrealistic for players short of match practice. England Under-19 were 109 for four at the close.

Arch-off 3 0 unloss stated
COMPLETE MUSIC HELLENIC LEAGUE: Premier division: Almondsbury v Didoor, Carterion v Hallen, Highworth v Abrogdon kintbury v Bentbury, North Lingh v Harrow H8; Seindon Supormanno v Wantago winstonLead Kent League: First division: Comman v Turbridge Wells, Herni Bay v Carterbury, Slado Green v Crockentilii

FOOTBALL

Crockentiti
SCREWRIX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division: Barnstaple v Chard Bridgester v Odd Down, Bridgest v Paulton of Caine v Mangotsfedd Urd Metkeham v Bededad Tauriton v Elmon, Twenton v Bridgest Comigion v Chappenham, Westbury v keynsham. keynshem.
MINÉRIVA SPARTAN SOUTH MIDLANDS
LEAGUE: Premier division south:
Amerikam v Brimzdown Becachshed v
Heingdon Borro: Brook House v Russip
Manor: Harmedi v Cockloskora. Eingdon v
Batternerick St. Marwelskin v. Leasen-

Manori, Harwell v Cockloskers, Isingjor Bartengaele, St Margardsbury v Harringhy Boro Peernier division north: Bedford v Hoddesdon, Brazho Sparta v Foddingron Hapenden v Bigglossade Letersworth v Arlessy Town, London Coliney v Royaton Potters Bart v Buckingham Athlene: Welsyn Garden v Milton Keynor O'Brien Butchers Trophy: Third results Greenes Welling Walton Keynor Crawley Green, Woodland v Walton Indiana. Namey Section
Ability's SOUTH EAST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Cambridge Utd v West Harm (110), Crystal Policio v Southend (110). General v Charlton (110), Ipsaich v Norwach (110); Leyton Orient v Portsmouth (110). Millwall v Arsend (110), Tottermann Fark Rangers v Waterd (110), Tottermann Fark Rangers v Waterd (110), Tottermann Farkenn (110). Second division. Barnet v Tottermann (110). Second division. Barnet v Tottermann (110). Beneford v Wireldsdor (110). Brighton v Oxford Utd (110), Bristal Cayv Seemidon (110). Luton v Bristal Rovers (110). Reading v Bournarmauth (11.0); Wycombe v Southampton (110).

Nycomitic v Southampton (11 II)
ENDSLEIGH MIDLAND COMBINATION:
Premier division: Coleptel v Bolohil Swifts,
Coverity Sphirty v Chosky Hay David
Loyd AFC v Highpate Handlehan Tembers
v Belson Community College Nemiworth v
Notorio, Kings Health v Continents Star
Southern v Alterdruch Wolczbaume v
Starten Swifts Monochay v Mark v Southern v Medication v Mor KA
SOUTHERN AMATEUR LEAGUE: Work
Wicklam v South Bank Poly, Carstulton v
Ceuch End vampires, Lloyes Bank v
P, Nycohne, Old Actorisms v Notsemen
Old Latymesians v Alexandin Park Mediand
Bank v Windhimore Hill, Old Esthatmostic v
Streeter Bank, Old Lennars v Old Owens.

Ibs y Marton New Association y Brentham, Broombold y Aleyn QB Old Westransfer Cre y Southquise Owners. QD BOYS LEAGUE: Premier diversion: Qyn QB y Old Aloysans Old Sutonians y Qd Vaughumans Old Temponians y Old Humpionians. Senior first diversion: Chertsey QS y Old Religations. Clapham QA y Old Norschumans. ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: The diversion ARTHURIAN LEAGUE: The diversion.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: Free Month Wies Labore to Base of the Membroton Hashingdon v Safford Holker Old Boys v Aherton LR. Respendate v Mossey S' Holes v Darwen Cup: Second round: Burscough v Nelson Cathlyon Gathelis Calcasop North Eng Capence v Vaurhall GM Garrycood v Newcastle Town Mologrove v Chadderton Mane Raad v Backpool Rovers Nanawich Town v Prescot Cables Skernerscale v Warrecton

COURAGE COMBINED COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premier division: Chessingian COURAGE COMBINED COUNTES
LEAGUE Premier division: Chessangion
and Hook v Sandhurst Chessangion
and Hook v Sandhurst Chessangion
and Hook v Sandhurst Chessangion
de Felharm Coteram v Rayres Park Vale,
Hartio, Windroy v Sodicant, Mestham v
Roading Town Notherna v Ash. Valury
Sports v Codustriang and Guilford
USEAN SENIOR LEGALET
Vision: Basildan U v Sandholgoworth,
Bowers v Bord Berntwood v Eten Manor,
Burnham Rambers v Hullbridge Sports,
Concord Rangers v East Hart. Saffron
Waldon v Great Walkering Seathend Manor
v Stanstod Walden's Great Watering Southend Nation's Sanstant
v Stanstant
v Stanstant
BANKS'S BREWERY LEAGUE. Premise
division Blossich S. Dartascon' Brichty
Hill T v Gornal A. Crackey Town v Walsait
Wood Kingdon Town v Ive Town shourport
S v Luckow T Treddie v Etingshall
Westfields v Bustlendine. V Johen's ampron
C v Mahlem T Wohonhampion's Statisted T
JEWSON EASTERN COUNTIES LEAGUE: Premise division: Bury Town v
Woodbridge Town; By v Caccon
Folkshowe Port and v Palemann Concestion
v Tipline. Hastead v Hanwich and
Parlieston. Helson v Deas Lawssoft v
Warboys: Stowmantet v Newmocket Sudtury W v Great Yamouth, Walton's Suchory
Tin, Wrodman's Sohem.
JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First divisions AFG Newhouty v Eastlegts. Tocon v
Aorostructures: Broderfrust v Gesson's
Christinists v Wemborne Downton v
Lymnighor, Rorisey v Cowes Sports.
Thatchorn Town v BAT. Whitehuren v
Bournemouth

UNLSPONT UNITED COUNTIES LID-GUE: Premier division: Bourie v North-ampton Spencer, Budongham v Eymos-bury Cageritro v Yadey, Ford Sports v Spaking, Halbeach v Welfingborough; Long Buckty v Statfold; Potton v Kempclan, St Neots v Bostan, Wootlon v Mirrices Backstone. Minitees Blackstone. UNIDET SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First

UMUST SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE First divisions Arundelly Haisham, Cholester v Easthourne Town: Hassocks v Pagham, Little-amption v Whitehowk: Pascerawin and Telscombe v Porffield: Rednill v Shoreham; Ringmer v Mile Colk Sattdean v Barness Hell, Who v Norsham Thad John O'Ham League Cup. Second round: Languey Sports v Selsey WITERLINK EXPRESS ALLIANCE: Pershaps Tv Halasparen H Industrial Revinda Cure Second round: Barnel v Polical V. chorn T v Holocourth H Indiasnial Revivida Cup: Second nounch Barwell v Polcal V: Intportley v Rushal; Choracourth v Kings Nottor, Sandwell v Stratford T Shifted T v Clothary U. Wednestield v Blocketh Toam, Beldmare St. Michaels v Bridgnorth Willerhall v Rocester Widerhal v Rocester

WORTHESH COUNTIES CAST LEAGUE
Premier desion: Curon Ashton v Amokt
Echishal v Selvo Glasshoughton Wellaw
Sheffeet, Hakam v Pontonar Colar Hatfield
Man v Potenng, Hudmall Town v Denaby,
Liversedge v Amnhorpe Welfser, Mality
MMV Brigg Town; Nath Fornby v Thadday,
Oscen Town v Oscen African

RUGBY UNION Interesponal matches England v New Zealand (at Twickerham, 20)

RUGBY UNION

Numeror 20 amess stated TETLEY'S BITTER COUNTY CHAMP-(ONSHIP: North: Pool 9: Chesture v Lancashre (at Salo, 2.30) South Pool B: Gaucestorstire v Berkstrie (at Lydnoy, 2.30) Pool D: Deven v Octorichine (at Barnstagle, 2.30), Kent v Buckinghamstere vet Power.

SRU TENNENTS VELVET CUP Fourth

and inflated systems of Franks; Brogar v Kimarnock; East Kilbude; Brogar v Kimarnock; East Kilbude; Dalsel, Hawek v Langhoum; Hendris FP v Annan Jed-Forotz v Garnock; Kinkealdy v Transy Reademeath; Lintengow v Borough-mur Mokroso v Garngemouth; Murraykeid v

Kes-eff 20 unless stated

Cheltenham and Gloucester Cup Gloucester v Fylde (12.30) Wakefield v West Hartlepool (12.0) Group B

Group C Waterloo v Coventry (2 15) . Group D Richmond v Badlord (11 0) . . Jewson National Leegue First division

Rugby v Newbury (3.0) Second division north Manchester v Sandal (2.15) SOUTH WEST: First compart Gouceaer Old Boys v Toxquey, Maidenhead v Pergance Newlyn. Perzance-Newtyn.

Tetter's erriter COUNTY CAMPPerzance-Newtyn.

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Tetter's erriter COUNTY CAMPWarwecksthre, Linconstrue and Debysthre.

Warwecksthre, Linconstrue and Debysthre.

Warwecksthre, Linconstrue and Debysthre.

Warwecksthre.

War shire v Northumberland (at Ottoy, 2.15) South Pool A. Susser v Eastern Counties (at Lewes, 2.15) Pool B: Dorset and

Kelso Musselburgh v Currie; Peobles v Gala, Stirling County v Gordonlers; Strathendrick v Watsonians, West of Scot-land v Glasgow Southern

Old Crescent v Shannon (2.30)

HOCKEY MATERIAM LEAGUE Premier division: Beeston v Barlord Tigens (at HighBelds, Notengham, 2.30) Doncaster v Cannock

Sunday's Well v UCC (2.30)

CLUB MATCH: Henley v Reading

AIB League First civision

Second devision

Witshire v Hortfordshire (at Salisbury, 2.39)
Pool C: Hampshire v Surrey (at US
Portsmouth, 2.15) Pool D: Middleaser v
Schnerset (at Stanes, 2.30).
ROYAL AND SIN ALLIANCE COUTS
COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP: Paul Glaucestershire v North Midflands (at Twickenham 1.20). Welsh League -

Bridgend v Swansea (2.0) Llanelli v Ebbw Vale (2.0) First division

Abaravon v Newbridge (2.0)

Abertillery v Durward (2.0)

Borrymaen v Blackwood (2.0)

Casopridly v Salar Win = Police (2.0)

Cross Keys v Rumney (2.0)

Maesteg v Trecrichy (2.30)

Marthy v Llandovery (2.0)

Carottil Institute v Pontypool (2.0) SECOND DIVISION: Kentig Hill v Abertynon, Tondu v Whitland: Llanharan v St Peter's; Tredeger v Pyle; Mountain Ash v Tentry Utd. SWALEC CUP: Third round: Carmarthen Quas v Owngwach; Narberth v Brynnaw.

AIB League First division Old Belvedere v Bellymene (2 30) Terenure College v St. Mary's College (2.30)........ Young Murister v Cloritari (2.30) Second division

DLSP v Galwegians (2.30)
Deny v Buccaneers (2.30)
Maione v Monkstown (2.30)
Wanderers v Stemies (2.30) CLUB MATCHES: Berningham/Solfhull v Bromsgrove (2.30); Plymouth v Barry Hill (2.30), Rednoth v Si Nee (2.30); Rosslyn Park v Walsall (12.0), Sheffield v Ricting-lam (2.30) Solutionoge v Wordester (2.30); Weston-ouper-Mare v Launceston (3.0). RUGBY LEAGUE

Man-off 20 unless stand SIER CUT CHALLENGE CUP: Pins round: Broughton RR v Hull Bockers: Developey Moor v Dubart Fodles v Fastherstone Lions: Elenborough v Crosfields, Farmyorth ROB v Lovica: Ideal ABI v Hurstet Warnons; John v Lorica: Ideal ABI v Hundret Warners; John Moores University v Eastmoot (Lergh East v East Hul, London Stolars v Myron Warners; Millord v Ouceans, Millord v York Acom; Millord v Ouceans, Millord v York Acom; Millord v BRV. Heatend v Weldfuld Hudd; Normarson v Folly Lane, Outeon v Loughborough University; Ovenden v Dodworth: Outearsbury v East Leeds; Flechall v Wigan St Judies; Shaw Cross v Cayton: Siddel v Lindey; Stammidey v Notampham; Techade v Leeds University; Waterhead v Westigate Redoubt. West Bowling v

University (at Banbury Road, 20); Sheffield v Hampstead and Westminster (at Abbeydale Park, 2.0)

(at Bonnethorpe, 2.0): East Grinstead v Hourslow (at Saint Hill, 2.30), Guildford v Cardedoury (at King's Menor School, 12.0); Old Loughtonians v Reading (at Chigwell, 2.0); Teddington v Southgate (at Lensbury Chio, 2.30). First division: Bucharts v Harioston Magpies (at Hrichin Boys School, 2.0); Bourmalle v Gloucester City (at King Edward's Girls: School, Birmington, 12.30), Bromley v Firebrand (at Priory Lesure Carlin, Oppregion, 1.0), Brodients's Vaurbaton (at Goorges Roed, See, 2.0); Chairestord v Warmigton (at Chelmer Park, 1.0); Hid v Loughborouch Sudents (at Dane Park, Road, 2.0); Indian Gymthana v Havent (at Thornbury Asenue, Listaworth, 2.0), Lewen v St Albans (at Southdown Club, 1.30), Oxford Harries v Oxford OTHER SPORT BASKETBALL: Buchaniser Leaguer Crystal Palace v Brimsrofrem Bullets (6 0): Shelfledt Sherks v Wortning Bears (6 0): London Towers v Thames Valley Tigers (6 30): Uni-bell Trophy: Group stage: Chester Jets v Manchester Giarris (3.3) CYCLING: South of England senior cyclo-cross championiship (at Southampton Sports Centre, 1 45) Thomritif: Worth Village v Fulham Travellans, John Moores University v Eastmoor.

HATICHNAL CONFERENCE: LEWILLE: Pramier devision: Heavarth v Mayfeld (2.30); Leigh Mirrers v Otchiam St Anne's (2.30); Anderson't v Dudley Hill (2.30); Walney Central v Baserley; West Hull v Askem (2.30); Mgan St Patrick's v Lock Lane (2.30); Woolston v Egremont (2.30). HOCKEY . MATIONAL LEAGUE: Premiter diversion:
Carmock v Barland Tigers (et Morns
Ground, 1.0); Doncazzer v Beestoff (at
Bernretthorpe, 1.30); Old Loughnonans v
Castarbury (at Origwell, 2.0); Reading v
Castarbury (at Origwell, 2.0); Reading v
Castarbury (at Stanting Larne, 2.0); Southpate
v Hounslow (at Trant Park, 2.0); Teddington
v East Granssac (at Reads School Orignott,
2.0); First division; S. Albans v Bournwile (at
Castance Park, 1.30).
ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier Leagues

ESL SOUTH LEAGUE: Premier League: Anchorians v Richmond; Chichester v Trojans; Eastcote v Winchester; Herne Bey Anchorians v Richmond; Chlonestar v Inclans; Esistote v Winchester, Herne Bey v Fareham; High Wycombe v Turbindge Weets, Madermaed v Gare Cour; Old Whitgimans v City of Portsmouth; Putley v Bedeatham; Wintietedon v Ramgarha; Wolving "v Bournermouth, Hempethies-Surrey; Blendford v Besingstoke; Carribaney v London University; Cheam v Old Georgies; Dukvich v Spenios; Goar v Oxshott; Old Waldourbans v Epoom; Old Caratigethams v Hestermen Onton v Old Oceanost: Dutwich v Spenos: Goen v
Oceanost: Old Welcounterns v Epsom; Old
Cranleghars: Portsmouth v Barnes
Kent/Sussec: BBHC v Bestey travida;
Folkestone v Astrionth Horstern v Wortning;
Merden Russets v Brighton; MiddletonBognor v Backtheath; Mid Sussex v
Easthouse; Old Bordeness v Bunt Ash
Old Holcombeans v Heart Bunt Ash mouteri massas v engition; MichelonBognor v Blackhedt; Mid Sussex v
Easthourne; Old Bodenesis v Burit Ash;
Old Holcomboans v Llouds Benic Old
Williamsonaens v Tulse Hill, Sevenoids v
Neichaver, Michel/Berfel/Buriels and Connic
Ashard v American; Famham Common v
Staines: Hayes v Hendon, Lonis v
Bracknet; Merlow Surbury, Midn Kaynes
v Clty of Oxford, PHC Chawick v Old
Kingstonans: Phoenix v Woldingham;
Berlings Park v Newbury, West Hampstead
v Garage Cost.

DT2 DEBENHAM THORPE MiDLAND
LEAGUE: Premier division: Bloowich v
Coverby and North Warwick: Hampton-inArden v Nettingham; Harborne v Khalset,
North Nicks v Edipaston; NorthamptonSants v Nicth Stafford: Often and Wass
Wannicks v Bloesonvillad.

NORTHHERN, LEAGUE: First division:

HORTHERN LEAGUE. First division: Chester v Notor: Formby v Durham University; Hampgate v Soutport; Shefield Barkers v Nestor: Timperley v Ben Rhydding; Wigan v Swelweit

ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE Premier division A: Besinop's Stortford v Crostyx
Cartionidge University v Carthodge City,
Clacton v Peterborough Tr; Linton Town v
Cotchester, Sudbury v losvidor Premier
division B: Bedford v Dereham; Bury St
Edmunds v Old Southendism. Redbridge
and flord v losvich and East Suffolk SI Nes
v Romlont. West Herke v Nonvich City
WEST OF ENGLAND AND SOUTH
WALES LEAGUE? Premier division: Bath
Buccaneers v Exiter University; Bristof
University v Weston-super-Name. Chettenham v Whitchurch; Clevedon v Robresons.
Swanese v Taunton Vale
WCLIEDTS NATIONAL LEAGUE? Premier
division: Hightown v Sutton Coldfold (at
Greenbark HS, 11 45). Otton Scotisch Life v
Trogars (at Baggar Bush, 12:20) First
division: Loughborough Students, v
Dradenet (2:30), Bractiond Swithershank v
Chelmsford Highway (112:0), Sunderland
Bedans v Careerbury (11:20), Sherwood v Poynton
(12:0), Aldridge v Old Loughtonians (2:0)
WOMEN'S RESIONAL LEAGUES: East:
Harkestern v Souonales Metileneth Soloner WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: East: Harlesten v Sevenciaks, Micherche, Rainer Harfeston v Sevencalis, Middlands; Belger v Luton: Hampton-n-Arden v Kettening; Lacester v Pickwick North Staffs v Chmoon Ramblers: West: Bournemouth v Taunton Vals, Leoninster v Chaltenitam; Hedland v Exmouth; St Austell v Colwall; Yate v Exiter

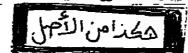
OTHER SPORT

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALT: Buthwelser League: Derby
Storn v Landon Laopards (7 30).

BOXING: World Boxing Council international super-middleweight champtoming: H Gerhem (Sheffield, holder) v V
Paziera (15) Commonwealth supermiddleweight championship (vacant): D
Stane (lowed) v M Beiter (Sidoup). WBC
intermitantal super-bantamweight championship: P Multings (Hamow, holder), v H
richara (Russ) (ett at Wernbiely Arena)
ICE HOCKEY: Banson and Hedges Cup:
Final: Cardiff Devils v Ayr Scottish Eagles.
(at Sheffield, 7,0) Berson and Hedges
Piote Final: Telland Tigurs v Slough Jels
(3.0).

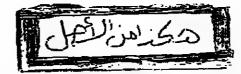
(3.0).
LACROSSE: Shepherds Friendly Society
Leegue: Priemier division: Heaton Mersey
v Stockport, Poyreon v Hulmelans; Cheedle
v Tampariey, Boardman and Eccles v Old
Waccontent; Mellor v Cheedle Hulme. ROWING: Thames world souting chaterige (3.30)



TOMORROW

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997 eager to end poor

tradition



Heavey learns new steps to dance with Devils

n its urgent quickstep to the beat of a modern a modern entertainment package, ice hockey has become Americanised on and off the rink. Remarkably, only one of the eight Superleague clubs now employs a British coach, a Scotsman exiled in Wales with a content ment that falls with a contentment that falls far short of complacency.

The state of Paul Heavey's right hand, encased in padding and bandages, is testimony to the tensions of his job. "Officially, it was a do-it-yourself accident in the garage at home," he said ruefully. Unofficially, it was a sharp object on the dressing-room wall that ripped Heavey's hand open as he expressed his frustration with his team at

Sheffield a fortnight ago.
Heavey will be back at Sheffield tonight, supervising Cardiff Devils in the showpiece Benson and Hedges Cup final against Ayr Scottish Eagles. He intends to keep his one good hand in his pocket this time, though the ever increasing demand for results will doubtless be betrayed by his keen-eyed face.

This is a commercial game now and everyone wants a return on their investment." he said. "The sport has been transformed in only a few years and the coaches are under constant pressure to produce. That pressure can only grow and I can see a lot more being fired in the years

to come." Heavey may be an alien in his own land, amid the rush for transatlantic coaches, but he is not a candidate for such treatment while Cardiff continue to prosper. Superleague champions last season, they are now aiming to win the Benson and Hedges for the first time since the inaugural final in 1992, when the captain lifting the trophy was none other than the present coach.

He had no wish to stop playing. Indeed, when the decision was forced upon him in 1994, following serious injuries to knee and foor, he found it hard to accept. "It was a big shock and it required a lot of soulsearching," he said. At 32, he did not feel ready for the the first cup final of the season tonight

ing and even on succeeding John Lawless in charge of Cardiff, a year later, the adjustment was complicated.

"When you've played with a set of guys for four years and you've suddenly got to direct, control and criticise them, it comes hard. I found watching very difficult and, for a year, I ended every game screaming, hollering and kicking things. I think I am better now, despite this," he said with another glance at the mummified

Cardiff are sponsored by BT and their catchphrase, "It's good to talk", certainly applies to Heavey. A natural commu-nicator, he sat back in his modest basement office this week and reflected on his origins in the game as a teenager in Glasgow,

"Skating was on our school curriculum and I grew to enjoy it so much that I would get to the public rink at seven o'clock every Saturday morning just to be at the front of the queue when the doors opened at nine. That way, I always got the pick of the boots and, one day, when a mate smuggled me in the back door, I met the

mos, Heavey graduated to Murrayfield, where he spent five years. The 1980s game could not support professionals and he doubled up working as a stage hand in a Glasgow production company. Spells with Solihull and Peterborough followed, but the high points were to come when he moved to Cardiff in 1991. "It was a chance of security, something I had to seek with a wife and a new baby. Cardiff were the new team on the block and, at the time, this was one of the best rinks."

He knows this applies no longer. Cardiff's capacity is

Alan Lee meets a Scotsman leading a Welsh ice hockey club to Sheffield for

long-planned move into coach- only 2,500 and they boast none of the spectator-friendly facilities enjoyed by Manchester and Sheffield. A move to a purpose-built ice stadium in Cardiff Bay is, as yet, no more than, a hopeful proposal. Heavey, however, is used to making do.

"When I started as coach after John Lawless left, the marketing and sales people had gone, even the secretary. There was nothing here but filing cabinets and the administration took up so much time I was often preparing practice sessions at midnight."

The Devils are a bigger, slicker operation now. A team manager, Andy French, frees Heavey for playing affairs. The club had to change because the game was moving so fast and, while Heavey revels in the competitive environment that was beyond imagination when he played, his reservations are profound.

and it is an exciting concept, especially now that all the clubs are capable of beating each other. But I have only two British players on my roster and some teams have even fewer. It's a situation we have to address with a five-year or

ten-year plan.
The heightened profile of hockey is getting the kids interested but they must have a realistic chance of achieving their goals and reaching the top level, or they will just give up. I think the league below us, the British League, should act as more of a feeder and impose limitations on foreign

The plea comes heartfelt from a man closely involved with the Great Britain team that will contest the world championships in May. For now, though, Heavey's attentions are on domestic matters and a weekend that exposes the demands of the transformed game. There will be no scope to celebrate or commiserate after the cup final. Tomorrow, Cardiff must fight for precious points at the Superleague



Eagles promise to avoid stage fright

By Norman de Mesquita

AYR Scottish Eagles and Car-diff Devils, on their day, are the two best teams in the Superleague and their meeting in the final of the Benson and Hedges Cup at the Sheffield Arena tonight should be

a game to relish.

The Devils won the compe tition in 1992, the first year of the present sponsorship, and have been runners-up once since. The Eagles reached the final last year, but gave a disappointing display against Nottingham Panthers. Perhaps they were so pleased to have qualified in their debut season that the occasion proved too much for them. Their coach, Jim Lynch, is certain that no such problem

will affect them this time. Lynch is a no-frills coach who stresses the importance of hard work and adherence to a proven game-plan. His team has no one outstanding player but has four forward ines, all of which are given roughly the same amount of ice-time, and all of which are likely to score goals.

.. There has been one significant change to the team recently. Darren Colbourne, who scored nine goals in his first seven appearances for the club, then went 16 games without finding the net, has been replaced by John Parco.

who has two goals and three assists in his first three games. The Devils, while also boasting all-round strength, have a forward line capable of winning any game. The speed of ivan Matulik, the workrate of Steve Thornton and subtle skills of Ken Hodge complement each other perfeetly and Ayr will be aware of the danger that they pose.
It could all come down to

goaltending. Rob Dopson is clearly first-choice for the Eagles and will certainly play. Frank Caprice and Derek Heriofsky have shared the goaltending duties for the Devils — at least until a 6-3 loss to Basingstoke Bison two weeks ago, since when Ca-price has played in four consecutive games. He looks likely to get the nod today.

Haining left high and dry by illness

By MIKE ROSEWELL

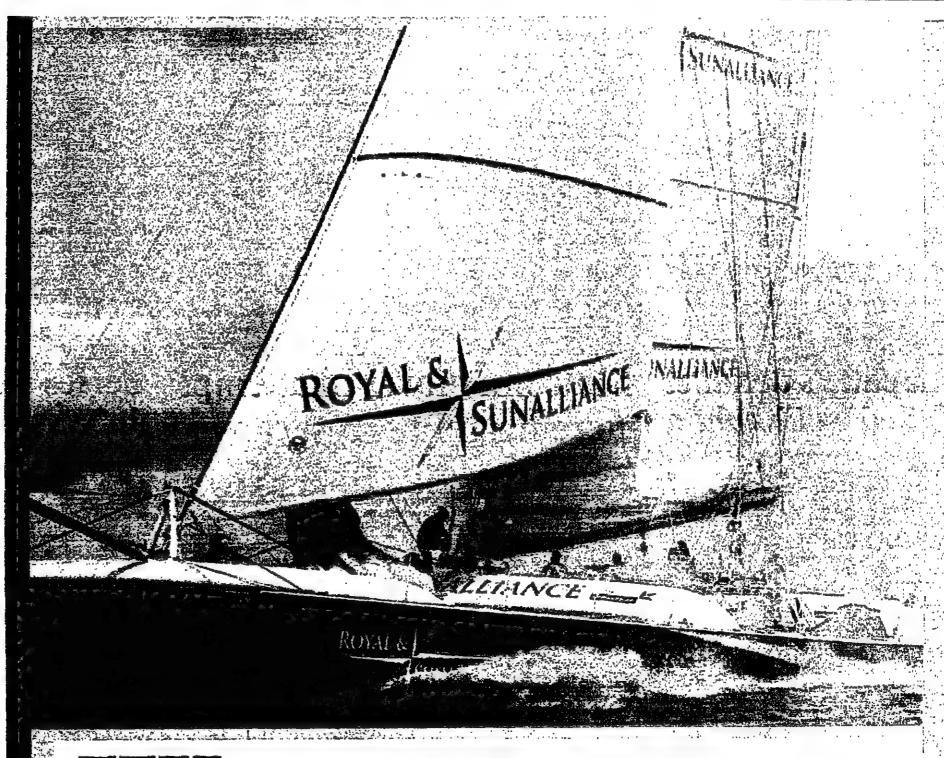
PETER HAINING, founder and twice the winner of the Thames World Sculling Challenge, will miss the Putney to Mortlake race, the fifth in the series, today. Haining, the world lightweight champion from 1993 to 1995, has been beset with illness this year and will be the umpire for an event justly billed "a race of

champions" The qualifications for entry are straightforward; a competitor must have won either an Olympic or world title, won the Diamond Sculls at Henley or the Scullers Head, or be the holder of the Thames World Sculling Challenge trophy. Five with this pedigree are in

the race today. British hopes will rest on Greg Searle and Martin Kettle. Scarle, an Olympic rowing champion in 1992, switched to sculling a year ago and won the Henley Diamonds and a world sculling bronze medal this summer. Kettle, who did not achieve selection for the world championships, won the Scullers Head and Wingfield Sculls this year. Kettle has plenty of experience in competitive sculling on the difficult championship course; Searle has very little.

International competition comes from the 6ft 7in Merlin Vervoorn, of Holland, who took the title from Haining in 1996 when he also won the Diamonds. The multiple world champion, Giovanni Calabrese, of Italy, last entered the race in 1995 when Haining beat him. Calabrese qualifies again this year as a member of Italy's 1997 world

champion quad scull. The smallest man in the race is Karsten Nielsen, from Denmark, who took on the mantle of world lightweight champion from Haining in 1996. Karsten raced in the Challenge last year, but fin-ished third behind Vervoom and Haining. An early lead in such a field may prove to be



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around the world non-stop? Can they steer their giant catamaran at speeds over 30 knots through all the dangers of the seas? Icebergs lie in wait for them. Fierce winds. Mountainous waves. And the vast unpredictability of the shifting weather. To do it, they will need all the experience of their skipper, Tracy Edwards. They will need strength of character as well as strength of limb. Many people think they will fail. But we believe in them. We're behind them. And experience tells us that when you can calculate the risks and keep a cool head, there's nothing you can't achieve. You can take on the world.

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Princeful can be king of the hill



By RICHARD EVANS RACING CORRESPONDENT

PRINCEFUL, lightly weighted and with more than a touch of class, looks a value bet at around 10-1 in the William Hill Hurdle at Sandown today - especially as Richard Dunwoody has

been booked to ride. Jenny Pitman has always held the gelding in the highest regard. At the start of last season, she told visitors to her open day: "We know he's got an engine and hope he makes into a Cheltenham horse come

RICHARD EVANS

NAP: PRINCEFUL (3.05 Sandown Park) Next best: Revolt (12.40 Wetherby)

And so it proved, as Princeful followed up two victories by finishing second to Shadow Leader in the Supreme Novices' Hurdle last March. That form reads particularly well and there was much to like about his seasonal reappearance at Ascot 15 days ago, especially as the race

stumble on a path near the and Princeful is the choice. home turn, the topweight stayed on well to be second. Given that he is a stuffy horse who needs plenty of work to gain full fitness, there is every demanding fences. Although

reason to expect considerable improvement today.

Dunwoody, who does not ride many of the Pitman horses, is a fascinating booking especially as he could have chosen Alabang - arguably the form choice of the race whom he partnered at Wetherby seven weeks ago when second to the progressive Good Vibes.

With Good Vibes winning again at Aintree, the wellregarded Alabang certainly comes into the reckoning. The stronger pace this afternoon will suit Maurice Camacho's runner, but his relative lack of experience — reflected in some moderate hurdling last time may count against him.

In a typically competitive race, Carlito Brigante has sound claims, having won the Imperical Cup over course and distance. However, he hails from a yard without a winner from almost 40 runners in the past seven weeks. Stormyfairweather has attracted support after a smooth

success at Newbury eight days ago but that victory came in a slowly run race and the Nicky Henderson runner must improve again to follow up. Although Grimes is considered a Champion Hurdle con-

tender, the handicapper has Klairon Davis could be worth opposing at short odds.

in the Mitsubishi Shogun

Tingle Creek Chase over these

the Irish raider won on his seasonal reappearance, the 1996 Queen Mother Champion Chase winner is usually at his best in the spring.

Viking Flagship, who had a hard race behind One Man at Huntingdon last time, could struggle to confirm Exeter form with Mulligan over this shorter trip. However, the two David Nicholson runners may find Or Royal a hard nut to crack. His third to Simply Dashing at Ascot two weeks ago was a sound effort and Martin Pipe's runner should be even more effective over the

minimum trip. Away from the gaze of the television cameras. Revolt looks worth an interest in the

Steve Humbles Birthday Novices Hurdle at Wetherby (12-40). From the in-form Tim Easterby yard, the well-re-garded five-year-old looked likely to make a winning reappearance at the Yorkshire track 18 days ago but blundered badly two flights from home. In effect, he is a winner

Hurricane Lamp primed to illuminate Sandown

experience, he could prove

well treated. He ran well for a

long way at the Cheltenham

Festival, and his dashing

style could see him flourish

this winter. Banjo bounced

back to his best on his return.

thanks in part to a brilliant

ride from Adrian Maguire. It

is easy to knock holes in that

form, while Air Shot, his

stablemate, needs to become

Greenhill Tare Away could

ON TELEVISION

SANDOWN PARK

CHANNEL 4

1.55: Space Trucker was the

best of these over hurdles, but

his best form has been on a

sounder surface. Despite

being worse off at the

weights, Queen Of Spades should confirm Cheltenham form with Direct Route.

However, Hurricane Lamp

is a fascinating chasing new

comer. Two victories over

hurdles last term were a

bonus, as he has always

looked as though he would be

CHRIS McGrath

go well at a price.

more fluent at his fences.

1.15: Jet Rules, who put up his best performance here two years ago in the Persian War Hurdle, may get outpaced back at this trip but goes well with cut in the ground, which could not be said with confidence of Secret Service. Miss Roberto should improve for this step up in distance, but this is familiar territory for Lough Tully, who improved in the spring and then caught a tartar on his reappearance here. Dashing Dollar has yet to match his Irish form.

I.45: Giventime, who shaped well over an inadequate trip at Kempton on his reappearance, could resume the improvement that last season saw him run up two legs of a treble over this course and distance; at the weights, however, he will have to. Little Martina ran well on too sharp a track when not yet at peak fitness at Warwick last time. Last season she confirmed herself a thorough stayer and could find some improvement. Turning Trix remains fairly treated and goes well fresh, but Killeshin and River Mandate can be expected to need the run. Dom Samourai ran well at Haydock last time but is inconsistent. A N C Express is not without a chance.

2.15: See More Business has a touch of class but carries a corresponding burden, and his relative inexperience over fences produced the errors which marred a fine comeback effort behind Suny Bay at Haydock (a ring-rusty Earth Summit behind). Indian Tracker is on trial for the Coral Welsh National here 3.40 Software had no 3.40: Sofyaan had no chance and while he. too, lacks

against Sanmartine, Whip Hand and Ela Agapi Mou at Newbury but still managed to take them along to the second-last flight. Previously, he won two novice events and he should relish this drop in class. Diego, ruener-up to the in-form Spint Ciel at Unoxerer last time, looks best of the rest.

RICHARD EVANS **WOLVERHAMPTON** -

CHANNEL4

2.45: State Of Caution has gone up lolb for his last three wins but can improve again to defy the handicapper. He is well drawn. Chewit returns to his best trip and his third to Farmost last time is smart form. Forcing Bid won impressively last time over a shorter distance but has a difficult draw to overcome.

3.20: The Norwegian challenger Loch Bering was beaten under four lengths by Prince Of Andros in this last year, when he stumbled at the start. He has reportedly improved and will make a bold bid. Farmost has to be the choice though, given the manner in which he defied a wide draw in a hot handicap here last time. That came from a mark of only 82, but he is improving fast and an extra furlong will be right up his street. Running Stag has form in group company on turf and goes well on sand. but fails to go through with

JAMES WILLOUGHBY

WOLVERHAMPTON

12.35 Chadleigh Lane, 1.05 Sada, 1.35 I'm Tef. 2.10 Gold Clipper. 2.40 Astrac. 3.20 Running Stag. 3.55 Rex Mundl. 4.25 Private Audience.

DRAW: NO ADVANTAGE GOING, STANDARD 12.35 ANGLO HOLT CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP

(Div 1: £1,944: 1m 1f 79yd) (13 Junners) (9) 0106 PERPETUAL LIGHT 14J (CD) J J Quen 4-9-12

5.-Cookhonier, 5-1 Bacciord, 7-1 Fastitalith' Floot, On The Green, 8-1 Perpetual Light, 10-1 Cabcharge Blue, 12-1 Ashgore, 14-1 others.

1.05 HOLIDAY INN BARDEN COURT WOLVER- 11-4 Sada, 9-2 Wolffront, 5-1 Polar Mat. 8-1 Desert Mirage, 7-1 Phantom Ring, 18-1 Kalamay Juzz, 12-1 Trable Term, 28-1 others, 1.35 manchester selling stakes

2.10 ANGLO HOLT CONSTRUCTION HANDICAP (£1,944: 1m 1/79yd) (13) (8) 3852 ROUND ROBN 119 C Thomkon 3-9-12 Dean Mickeyer (1) 0000 CAMBRIDGE BLUE 152 I Sample 3-9-9 ... M Tobbut (9) 0124 ALFAHARA 11 (F.St C Dayse 4-9-8 ... G Parkin (3) 112 0844 SEA SPOUSE 12 (3) M Barchara 6-9-7 Dale Ghouse (7) 2107 SALTZ BS1 (F) P Daleon 5-9-4 ... C Lowber (3) (4) 2000 ZEPAMATT 12 (BF, 5) M Uzber 7-9-4 ... M Remove (10) 5002 HAYDN JAMES 23 (B) P Hards 3-9-2 D Holland (11) 2504 FARED TO HT 19 (BF) H Utmoden 4-8-11

2.45 TOTE JACKPOT HANDICAP

Cheerit 2961 and of 13 to Farmost in humbary harms framerican here (77, AW) with Astrac (78 better off) 31 5th and Mr Senten off Caution bent Str. Joey 1961 in 12-numer humbary at Nesters (180 better off) 31 5th and Mr Senten off) 21 6th, the Bergerer (180, good) with Geetic Storm (8th better off) 31 11th, Forcing Bid beat cath 2741 9th and Senten 1965 better off) 31 11th, Forcing Bid beat Castern Problems (11 Annuary humbary here (18, 494) with fits Bergerer (18th better off) 5461, 36t. Twells Credita 1961 and of 11 to Prezigement to humbary for the chairing states here (6t, AW) Brittant Red (6t) 3rd of 28 to Consort in humbary at Mewmarkei (1m, good to farm) with Cheevil (245) worse off) 246 5th.

3.20 WULFRUN STAKES (Listed race: £31.086: 1m 1/ 79vd) (7)

6-5 Centre Statis, 5-1 Russing Stag, Russian Music, 6-1 Farmost, 8-1 others

FORM FOCUS press in group I states at Acad (Impass in Group Impass in Group Impass in Acad (Impass in Acad Impass LOCH BERING was unlocky in this last year and is seed to have improved

3.55 LONDON HANDICAP (Div : £2,453: 1m 4f) (10) 1 (6) 6111 SWAN HUNTER 21 (C.D.G.S) 3 Compose +10-0

144 Sour Humar, 4-1 Tol Tol, 6-1 Rev Microsi, 7-1 Ordanest, 9-1 others.

4.25 London Handicap (Div #: £2,453: 1m 4f) (9) 1 [7] 0046 PRIVATE ALDIENCE B W Mar 4-10-0 . G Lowber (3) 71
2 (9) 1440 CHARRIWOOD JACK 7 [7] : Caractes 4-9-11

CHEPSTOW

2.50 The Swan

1.15 Miss Roberto 1.45 Little Martine 2.15 Indian Tracker

3.20 Ambienide 3.50 Lord Jim

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES)

1.15 SHANE BRODERICK APPEAL HANDICAP HURDLE BBC1 (£4,500: 2m 4i 110yd) (8 runners) 137 - 11-10 (1997) (2 Totalics 2) (1997) (1997) (2 Totalics 2) (1997) (2 Totalics 2) (1997) (2 Totalics 2) (1997) (2 Totalics 2) (1997)

SETTING: 9-4 Lough Tully 7-2 Sesame Seed 4-1 Mass Roberto 6-1 Secret Service 7-1 Jet Rules, 14-1 others 1998* CADOUGOLD 5-10-13 A P McCoy (4-1) M Page 8 can FORM FOCUS

Jet Rules beaten a distance 3rd of 6 to Carole's Crusader in novice chase at Warrick (3rn 21, good to Imm), previously beat Robustian 3rd in 15-namer novice chase at Townester (3rn 11, good to 2nt).

Sesame Seed beat Drum Bartle 1 to 7-namer handlesp burdle at Worcester (2rn 41, good to 2nt). Royal Mountbrowne beaten a distance 4th of 6 to Wiking Fagsiyp in grade it handlesp chase at Ereter (2rn 11 110yd, good to 2nt). Miss Roberto 101 2nd of 5 to Sant Crei in handlesp hurdle at Haydock (2rn, good). Secret Service 8¼1 4th of 6 to Good Vibes in handlesp hurdle at Welterby (2rn good to 11) and of 9 to Tidat Force in handlesp hurdle at Chep Jone (2rn 41 110yd good).

LOUGH TULLY needed the run here last time and is well treated 1.45 JACK BROWN BOOKMAKER HANDICAP CHASE (£7,119: 3m 2f 110yd) (8 runners)

FORM FOCUS

Giventime 111 2nd of 5 to Super Tactics in handicap chase at Manufacture 111 2nd of 5 to Super Tactics in handicap chase at 11, good); previously 45 7th of 36 to Lord Gyllene in grade 18 handicap chase at Ayr (4m good) with Turning Tht (3b worse off) beater a destance 13th and River Manufactic (3th befer off) pulled up Osswell Lad 211 2nd of 6 to Him Oil Pratsa in handicap chase at Haydock (3m 41 10yd, sout), A N C Express 531 8th of 16 to Generature 115th worse off) in handicap chase at Chepsions (3m 21 110yd, good to solt). Little Martina 11st 2nd of 4 to God Speed You in handicap chase at Warvick (3m 21, good to solt).

BETTING: 3-1 Dam Samoura, 7-2 Greeniums, 11-2 Turning Tro. Orswell Lad. 13-2 Little Martina. 10-1 others.

A N C EXPRESS loves the mod and may spring a surprise



COURSE SPECIALISTS

CHEPSTOW: Trainers: D Nicholson, 18 winners from 63 runners, 28 6%; P Hobbs, 22 from 82, 26 8%, M Pipe, 50 from 206, 24 3%, P Nichols, 17 retri 79; 21 5%, J Old, 6 from 40, 20 0%; Mrs. J Pitman: 7 from 38, 18 4%, Jackeys: D J Burchell, 5 winners from 27 ndes, 18 5%, A Thomicon, 5 from 41, 12 2%, Only qualifiers.

WOLVERHAMPTON-Trainers: M Prescott 25 wanters from 109 runners, 22.9% M Johnston, 53 from 233, 22.7% M Meade 6 from 31 19 4hr. R Guest, 9 from 50, 18.0%; P Hastam, 33 from 185, 17.9%, D Shaw, 5 from 29, 17.2%, Jocksye, T Curin, 7 winners from 44 rides, 15.9%, D Holland, 18 from 120, 15.0% G Duffleet 27 from 181, 14.9%, R Ffrench, 3 from 25, 12.0%, A Clark, 22 from 196, 11.2%

GUIDE TO OUR IN-LINE RACECARD

Racacard number. So,-Injure form (F — led P — pulled up U — unseated index. B — brought doest. S — stopped up R — retaised D — solespatibled horse's name (lays since last outing, F if (Iast, (B — bishlam; V — visor, H — brood, E — Fyezhald C — course and distance winner CO — course and distance. Timekeeper's speed rating.

2.15 CORAL REHEARSAL CHASE (Grade It limited handicap: £18,534. 3m) (6 runners)

SETTING: 2-1 Banjo, 9-4 See More Business, 5-1 Endan Tradler, 11-2 Air Shot, 6-1 Earth Summet, 14-1 Greentd Tan Avery 1896 SELMONT KING 8-10-8 A P McCoy (6-1) P Nicholis 7 pm

FORM FOCUS

See More Business 18I 3rd of 10 to Suny Bay in handicap chase at Haydock (3m. good) with Earth Summit (10) before off) 49I 5th Barup beal What A Hand 1½I in 6-runner handicap chase at Chellenham (3m 3i 110yd, good). Air Shof 11 3rd of 5 to Philip's Woody in handicap chase at Strallord (3m 5i 110yd, good) indian Tracker 46I 11th of 14 to Handichen in grade I chase at Chellenham (3m 11 good to fam). Greenth Tare Away 4i 3rd of 16 to Superior Finish in handicap chase at Sandown (3m 5i 170yd good to soft) BANJO is at last fulfilling his promise and can outclass these

2.50 GOOD LUCK NOVICES SELLING HURDLE

(£1,898: 2m 4! 110yd) (11 runners)

PAMAA NING 19F (Mrs V Guy) B Lievethyn 5-10-12 Michael Breonum (5) —

2 064/2F F LYPHARIUS FABILE 182 (Mrs G McFerran) / George 5-10-12 — 98

3 50-8 0UESTAN 11 (B) (5 Netcon) M Pipe 5-10-12 — C Mauste 76

4 5503-02 0UEST MOMENTS 10 (Mrs L Marrhyn P Houghe 4-10-12 — L Aspell (3) 94

5 F-FASS3 ROYAL HAND 16 (M) (R Amson) R Amson 7-10-12 — Mr R Amson 89

TYDOON TED 155F (Mrs M Brechomet W LI Breghourne 4-10-12 — MR R Amson 89

7 043504 FORTUNES ROSE 202 (Mrs A Garrett) 1 Jung 5-10-7 — T J Morphy 8

8 F-POSPO ROMAN CHOWN 16 (S) (P Buckley) N Thomson 7-10-7 — J Morphy 9

9 300 REPHARIOED 24 (IB Sacce) O Brace 6-12-7 — R Thomson (3) 10 4235-63 SONG FOR JESS 14 (S Janes) F Jorden 4-10-7 — R Thomson [1]

10 008-06 THE SWAN 91 (T Sanders) R Jorden 4-10-7 — R Thomson [1]

BETTING 9-4 Queston 3-1 The Seen, 11-2 Song For Jest 13-2 Lyphard's Fable 8-1 Diorea King, Quest Morrients Royal Hard, Forkness Rose 20-1 others

1996 AINSI SONT R, 5-10-12 U Bridgester (5-1) G McCourt 10 ran

3.20 FLURRY KNOX HOVICES CHASE (£3,625, 2m 3f 110yd) (6 runners)

231-231 St 11-19(1) (C Hamiles 2) (231-231-31 T 11-231) (C Hamiles (3) 1238-31 R VERB BAY 14 (0.5) (Fiberatorol Rating) Miss H Amglet 6-10-13 R Thomson (3) 2403-20 AMBLESIDE 10 (5) (F Yay Mrs 5 Williams, 6-10-12 S Michael 338 4896- CHARLIE'S FOLLY 286 (0) Hostin 8 De Hoan 6-10-12 C Manda (233-562 LANDED GENTRY 7 (S) (F Berl & Som Lift) J (17) Fize 8-10-12 Michael Brenzen (3) 1192-43 SPRING DOUBLE 15 (V.O.G.S) (Mrs L Bernyann) N Twisto-Univer 6-10-12 T James (4) 412110- STORMY PASSAGE 246 (S) (F Luft P Hoots, 7-10-12 A Thomson BETTING: 11-4 Amblesde: 3-1 River Bay 7-2 Stormy Passage, 4-1 Landed Gentry 11-2 Spring Double, 25-1 Charle's Folly.

3.50 DECEMBER MAIDEN HURDLE (£3,155: 2m 110yd) (14 numers) BEAR HUG 67F (I) Jones M. Shepparl 4-11-5

BEAR HUG 67F (I) Jones M. Shepparl 4-11-5

P. BOLD BUSTER 30F (I) & Forest in the Electrica (I) Bulding 4-11-5 R. Thomson (3)

0/2 DESERT POWER 18 (Mr.) I. Williams) D. Burchell B-11-5 D. J. Borchell

40 HTZMARICE 28 (April) C. Brode 5-11-5 D. J. Borchell

50ZPP. ARRICE BER MAN 389 (I/C Catherwood) P. Hobbs 7-11-5 Mr. R. Wildger (I)

4-25 KONG OF THEVES 8 (J) Bell) C. Mann 5-11-5 J. L. Bayrou (3)

LORO D. MAZ 27 Hulls S. Thomson J. J. Did 5-11-5 L. Harvey

530000- MAZBAH 162F (M. Appleby) S. Corks 6-11-5 Mr. B. Wildger (I)

5 NICELLO 18 (J. Burgh R Ann 5-11-5 Mr.)

5 NICELLO 18 (J. Burgh R Ann 5-11-5 Mr.)

5 SUBFRAIN HENRY 298 (C. Tarson) B. Smarl 4-11-5 L. Lawrenze

055/2 SOL MUSG 22 (6.8 P. Partnetshor) J. Jung 5-11-5 J. J. Morphy (90000P) STORM POINT 568 (R. Parmy) H. Honey 9-11-9

440-44 CRYSTAL JEWEL 22 (Jan 1 Petres I) Floates 5-11-0 O. Burrows (5)

1886. 4-1 Bold Buster, 9-2 Crystal Jewel, 5-1 Sol Meson, 11-2 Course. 7-1 King (I) Theves (5)

BETTING 4-1 Bold Buster, 9-2 Crystal Jewel, 5-1 Sol Mests, 11-2 Column 7-1 King Ol Theres, Land Jim, 8-1 1998: TOMPETOO 5-11-5 C Maune (5-2) N Twisten-Equies 9 can

SANDOWN PARK

12.50 Symbol Of Success 2,30 Ask Tom 3.05 Carlito Brigante 3.40 FINAL STAB (nap) 1.25 Ivor's Flutter 1.55 Direct Route

Timekeeper's top rating: 2.30 VIXING FLAGSHIP.

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

12.50 EWELL CHASE

(£6,840. 3m 110yd) (6 runners)

BETTING: 5-2 Andwell, 11-4 Buckhouse Boy, 7-2 Frazer Island, 6-1 Podalizoles Size, 7-1 Symbol Of Stations, 10-1 Thermal Warner 1998: AARDWOLF 5-10-13 9 Bradley (7-2) C Brooks 4 ran

1.25 DOUG BARROTT HANDICAP HURDLE

| Company | Comp

Long bandicap: Bend Sable 9-11
Long bandicap: Bend Sable 9-11 1996: COKENNY BOY 11-16-6 N Williamson (20-1) Mrs J Partier 5 ran

1.55 HENRY VIII NOVICES CHASE (Grade II. £12.550; 2m) (7 runners) | Collaboration | Collaboratio

1996: MULLIGAN 6-11-0 A Maguine (4-6 tax) D Nicholson 3 can FORM FOCUS

Chief's Song beat Ground Nut 11/61 in 5-numer novice chase at Ascal (Cm. good to soft) Crack On beat Bayerd 41 in 3-numer novice chase at Chepstore (2m 31 110yd, good to firm). Hoh Warmor beat Cheryl's Lad 101 in 6-numer novice chase at Markot Rasen (2m 11 110yd, good). Obsern Of Spades beat Direct Route (7th better off) nect in 5-numer grade if novice chase at Chetterham (2m good) with Space Trucker (7th better off) installed in the Research Lamp tell in novice hardle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good), previously 51 2nd of 5 to Le Teteu in grade if middle at Doncaster (2m 110yd, good). Space Trucker beat The Secret Grey 81 in 5-numer novice chase at Haydook (2m, soft).

HOH WARRIOR recorded a decent time at Market Rasen and could be a bit of value

TRAMERS JOCKEYS 102 92 19 59 36 42 R Durmoody A Maguira R Johnson A P McCny D Bridgwaller C Llewellyn 28.4 22.8 21.1 18.6 16.7 11.9

2.30 MITSUBISH SHOOLIN TINGLE CREEK TROPHY CHASE

SETTINE: 13-8 Klaron Davis, 7-2 Multipan, 4-1 Or Royal, Yilong Playship, 8-1 Ask Torr. 33-1 others. 1898: SOUND MAN 8-11-7 R Derwoody (70-11 Int) E C'Gesty (fre) 4 cm FORM FOCUS
| Fairyhouse (2m, good) Or Royal 5%; 2rd of 11 to Samply Declaring in grade if fronticap classe at Ascot (2m 3f 110)rd, good to soft purelocuty best Multigran (18th worse off) 51 in 6-marker grade ii hardicap classe at Humand (18th worse off) 51 in 6-marker grade ii hardicap classe at Steller (2m ii 110yd, good to soft) with Ask Torm (levels) pulled up and this So Risky (17th worse off) fell. The imperious VIXING FLAGSHIP can put some young pretenders to the sweet.

3.05 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP HURDLE (£34,458: 2m 110yd) (21 runners) | 4,458; 2m 110yd) | 21 rumers| | 100 | 130 | 140 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 150 | 15

Long hermacap: -Usasan 4-12 BETTING, 5-1 Stompfatreether, 11-2 Grimes, 8-1 Alabang, 10-1 Ches-Yo Potter's Gale, Presented, 11-1 Potentate, 12-1 Eta Agapa Mou, 14-1 Carlino Broganie, 16-1 Bediator, Kerpan, Nahamoti, 20-1 elletes 1996: MANCE A STAND 5-10-8 G Tormey (9-1) M Pipe 15 ras

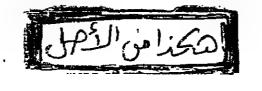
Potentiate 144/ 3rd of 9 to Marelto in remotican hundle at Chapterow (2m 4/110yd, good to soft) with Damagold (13to better off) pulled hundle at Laspardstown (2m, good to soft) with Damagold (13to better off) pulled warse off) in familiary hundle at Laspardstown (2m, good to soft) Silver Groom 13 80 of 18 to Caditio Register. (13to warse off) in familiary hundle at Sandown (2m 110yd, good) with Damagold (5to warse off) 48/15to Groom 13 80 of 18 to Caditio Register. (13to Groom 14 74 of 30 worse off) 145/13 and of 17 to Mr Petry in handicap fundle at Chelterham (2m 110yd, good) with Man Vintage (2to better off) 21/19th, Caditio Sidgares (2to better off) 71 to 5-runner handicap fundle at Leicester (2m, good to soft) Better off better off 18/16 to 5-runner handicap fundle at Association (2m 100d, soft) with Damagold (3to better off) 34 is 5-runner handicap hundle at Association (2m 110yd, soft) with Damagold (9to better off) 34 is 5-runner handicap hundle at Association hundle at Association (2m 110yd, good) Alabamy 22 25to 46 6 for Good Vibes in handicap hundle at Wetherby (2m, good to firm) with Forestat (5to better off) 23 5to.

ALABANG goes well with some call and his second to Good Vibes is working out ALABANG goes well with some cut and his second to Good Vities is working out

3.40 MERCURY FM NOVICES HANDICAP HURDLE (£4,280: 2m 110yd) (7 runners) 1996: AERION 5-11-11 J Osborne (7-4 EW) O Sherwood 8 ran

Sofysam besien a distance less of 4 to Sammarten in juncte at Members (2m 110yd, good), prevously beat Miss Ondres 24th s5numer hundle at Chepston (2m 110yd, good). Ballador test
in 16-numer selling hundle at Luddow (2m, good). Final Stab beat Among belands Bi
in 16-numer selling hundle at Luddow (2m, good). Disgn 6th 2nd of 8 to Seint Cief in transfering before
at Utilization (2m, good). Weat Feat 34th 3rd of 9 to Mrs Em in novice hundle at Wincardon (2m, sins).

FINAL STAB was most impressive at Ludlow and looks to be improving



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Hereitz.

THE TIMES SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

Striker rises to head for new goals

Mick Quinn, former footballer, has found new ways to spend his time and money as a trainer

ourage comes in all kinds of forms. So does love. So does folly. A first-season trainer knows that better than most. A first-season trainer with his first runner just days away: standing at the top of the Cresta Run with terror -no, not terror, really not terror, just the knowledge that the road is steep, slippery and marked with the disasters of a thousand thousand who have

gone before. It helps, then, if he knows a few things about horses. About racing. About business management and finance. And many, if not most trainers learn such things from birth, take it in with mother's milk and father's mood. Racing is a sport about the study of nature and nurture and their inextri-cability. That is true for horses, true for humans.

It takes a brave person to go in from the outside and an exceptional one to succeed. By success, I don't mean winning the Derby and the Gold Cup. I mean avoiding bankruptcy.

Away, then, to the bottom of a steepish rise in a field that lies a stiffish hack away from Lambourn. To stand with the latest supplicant at sport's least forgiving altar. An exfootballer by the name of Mick

Quinn, aka the Flying Pig. aka Super Sumo. A big. unsveite man who scored goals: stacks of them. For Portsmouth, Newcastle United, Coventry City among many. A notch above journeyman; a notch below top-class. And he was a player with a

reputation. Reputation is a bad word in football.

Likes a drink. Likes a gamble. This being synecdoche in truth, Quinn liked several drinks and always liked to follow racing wallet first. That is true of many people who live blameless and effective professional lives. But in football, it is enough to make you - well,



not a marked man. One that people are wary off.

People were wary of Quinn. Sharp-minded and unable to resist a quip, a relish for living. He has never cared to disappoint people who sought the traditional Wacky Scouser. (Who was it that said he would give a good deal to meet a nonwacky Scouser?)

And the horse spun in horror at a paper bag and tried to run home, and the lad (female and employed to do the secretarial work in this fledgeling set-up) turned him back the right way, and Quinn muttered almost to himself: "Got the moral fibre of a peanut." You may insert your own four-letter words into Quinn's remarks: it will save me a great deal of work. Don't stint yourself. No harm is meant by it, any more than I mean harm with commas and

full stops. Many footballers are attracted to racing. At the races, you can be flashy, boozy, noticed and admired. Many footballers love a gamble. The romantic loucheness, if I can be permitted such a word, of racing is tailor-made for the archetypal, footballing, Flash

ow can you make a trainer from such a person? An-But gambling and boozing are not so much the exposed part of the iceberg in Quinn's nature, as the layer of paint on the top of the Effiel Tower.

Quite early in his footballing career, Quinn got involved with ownership. Naturally, he sent the horses to his friend, Mick Channon, the England footballer turned

successful trainer: He was

welcomed as a regular visitor

to the yard. And it was here

that Quinn was struck by the

thunderbolt of love. He discovered that it was drink" is always typecast as mucking out, but he gets a lot not gambling he loved, but wastrel. The truth is that of practice at mucking in. It He discovered that it was

horses. Not racing, but race-horses. Soon, Quinn was in-volved in handling his own Quinn has always had a taste horses, leading them, grooming them, learning them. And Channon, seeing this love, seeing this helpless desire to enter the channed circle of horsiness, seeing, perhaps, himself, broke the circle and

Many people go through some kind of crisis in their early thirties. No footballer can avoid it. What to do when the music stops? Quinn wanted to follow his heart into racing. But hearts only get you so far, as the bankruptcy court will tell you. Quinn thought it a good idea to get his mind onside as well.

allowed Quinn to enter.

A footballer who likes a

for hard work. And also, there was about his football career the unmistakable taste of disappointment. Some who achieve great success in sport find their apperite — for work, for success — jaded when they essay a second career. Quinn has only tasted success: he has never had the chance to gourmandise.

Hungry for work, hungry for achievement. He left football and worked as an unpaid pupil assistant to Channon -Channon, whose role in this story is of a large-hearted and generous man. "Slight change from one training session a day and then go home. Slight change from the wages, too." A footballer is not used to

was no problem to him, being one of the lads. He also did er to train racehorses, the three Jockey Club courses in training, two of which did not touch on horses at all. Finance, business administration: it is all very well being good at your job, but unless you are good at money, you are sunk. Quinn lived off his savings. Invested in a training estab-lishment. Bought horses. Sought owners. Applied for a licence to train. Got it at the

second attempt. And is now training 14 horses, spaces for more. Flat racing in winter on the all-weather tracks is not the best treat that racing has to offer. At Southwell on Monday, it is the most important day of Quinn's life.

Fairy Domino and Katie's Cracker. Names with which to

other being Francis Lee. He is inclined to stress rather than hide his footballing origins. His horses will parade in a blanket that bears a football logo. Quinn himself prefers the footballer's shell suit to cords and Barbour, a baseball cap to a flat cap from the shop in Jermyn Street in which a stuffed cat smokes a cigar. He learnt to ride but doesn't,

the third professional football-

much, feeling you can see more from the ground. He was a child of the inner city. and horses were a passion that came late in life. In childhood, like measles, the horsey passion is easily shaken off. If acquired in later life, both are

A feeling for horses. More, conjure. And Quinn becomes the ability to trust in your feeeling for horses. "She was just a bit special. I just liked the way she walked." On such feelings. Quinn has unbeited a fair amount of the readies: and staked his future, his credibility as a person.

It is hard and brave to do, this, even if you have been bred for the task and brought up in the smell of it. To do so from the world of football, a world not only unhorsey but in many ways quite unreal, is an act of rare courage. And love and folly, of course, as I say, but nobody goes into horses (or stays in horses) without lashings of those two things. It is the courage that is exceptional. Sumo Quinn sprinkles salt onto the arena of combat adjusts his loin cloth and crouches on his mark. Let

Dorans

Pride

returns

DORANS PRIDE, Ireland's

leading Cheltenham Gold Cup hope, has the opportunity to deliver a swift reply to Suny

Bay at Fairyhouse tomorrow.

The eight-year-old has been

displaced at the head of some

Cheltenham betting lists by

last Saturday's impressive

Hennessy Cognac Gold Cup

However, his big-race odds

may well shorten if he dis-poses of his rivals in the

Ir£35,000 grade one Hot Pow-

er Chase with authority. Dorans Pride's only defeat in

nine completed outings over

fences came when he finished third to Mr Mulligan in the

Gold Cup as a novice last

He will again be ridden by

Richard Dunwoody, who has

already steered him to vic-

tories in both the Kerry Nat-

ional at Listowel and the

Morris Oil Chase at Clonmel

Klairon Davis was declared

for the race, but will run

instead in the Mitsubishi Sho-

gun Tingle Creek Chase at Sandown this afternoon, a

race for which he will start

favourite. A spokeswoman for his trainer, Arthur Moore,

said: "He has been declared

only as a precaution in case

in the almost certain ab-

sence of Klairon Davis, the pick of Dorans Pride's remain-

ing four opponents look to be Merry Gale and Opera Hat, first and second over 212 miles

The division of opinion over

the respective merits of the

leading British and Irish challengers is summed up by the

Gold Cup quotes from Ladbrokes and William Hill.

Sandown is off.

at Naas last month.

winner. -

RESIDENT.

this term.



The mighty Quinn shows off two horses at his yard near Lambourn, Miss Dangerous, left, and Katie's Cracker. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS .

Sandown Park Going: good to solt (good in places 1.00 (2m 110 of hole) 1, Coursiny Ballu (R Dunwoco), 3-1 law, Richard Swens Iran); 2, Slycab (16-1); 3, Bacay Run, 25-1), 21 ran 8, 31, 1 King, Tote: C3.30; 21.50, 52.80; 29.00 DP: 527.80, Year C222.40, CSP: 547.18

247,78 1.30 (2m 4f 110)d chij 1, Wales King (Ĉ Llevellyn, 3-1); 2, Bengers Moor (3-1); 3, Amlah (5-1) Destes Cavaller 9-4 (av. 5 am. NR: Smuggler's Point, NK, 1941, J 041, Toler 13-30, t.1 30, (2-7), Dr: 87-100, CSF; th 2.05 (2m 8 hdle) 1, Song O' The Sword (G Bradley, 11-4); 2, Prospero (S-1); 3, Fullyamo Costa (13-2), Molay Miner 7-4 Sav. 8 an. 5, 3 kl. J Old, Tote: £3.50; £1.40, £2.60, £1.90 DP: £14.80, 146: £18.70, CBP: £26.47.

226 47.
235 (2m 41 1 loyd ch) 1, Outle Regress (A Maguys, 12-1); 2, Linton Rocks (6-1); 3, Philip & Woody (4-1), Redesimporated 8-4 law 8 ran. 294 1 M. Mass H. Knight. Total: £14.10; £2.70, £1.80, £1.80, £7.80, £7.80, 40. 3.10 (Sm. St. 110yd st) 1, Sambles (D Bridgwater, 2-1); 2, Whet A Hand (13-8 fav). Only two finished. 4 ran. NR: Little Martine. 11. P. Hobbs. Tota: \$2.80. DF: \$2.50. CSF:

2.40 (2m 110yd hele) 1, Tough Act (M A Fitzgerald, 8-1), 2, Majesty (14-1); 3, Furrung De Cerisy (9-4 tav), 12 ran. 51, 10 Mrs A Perrett. Tote: 93.30; 52.00, 52.70, 51.90 DF: \$54.80, Yele: \$94.50, CSP: \$29.42.

Jackpot: not won (pool of \$5,841.74) period longed to Serviown Plant loomy). 08.812 2oquan De.3812 2oquan

Exeter

ucing: sor 12.50 (2m 2! hdie) 1, it's Waltace (I. Aspell, 4-1); 2, Swan Street (9-1); 3, Province (4-1) Lord Nitrogen 3-1 tav. 9 ran. 4, 11, J Province Toler 54 40, C.150, E.170, E.140, DF, E18.50, Troc. 524 00, CSF: 536.58, Tricast: £140.77. 100. E24 UU. USP: E38.05. Incast: E140.77. 1,20 (2m 2f ch) 1, Silent Guns (D Saibr, 8-1): 2, Glen Missge (B-1): 3, Colette's Choice (11-1). Shimba Hits 7-2 fav. 10 ran. 9, 11 G Edwards. Tota: 152.0; E3.00, E3.60, E3.00

Tro 2714 20. 1.50 (2m 2) ch) 1. Boerdroom Shuffe (L. Aspell, 1-7 fav), 2. Pennymoor Prince (20-1); 3. Artstic Plan (25-1), 4 ran. 121, dist. J Gistord, Tole: £1.10. DF: £4.60. CSF: £3.53. Gattorio, 1089; 2.110; Erf.; Mintwood Casatta (A. 225; Carr 7, 110; Gr. 10; 1. Mintwood Casatta (A. Thornton, 5-1); 2. Special Account (9-1); 3. Cation Sel (11-4 Lay) 7 ran, 103, 334; R. Albert, 704; £4 10; £3.30, £4 80. DF- £15.80 CSF- £38 07

C38 07
2.55 (2m 2f India) 1. Suprame Charm (Mr R Wakey, 3-1); 2. Winston Run (3-1); 3. Not For Parrot (14-1) leanos evens faz. 10 ran. NR Benetit-In-Kind. Mr. dat. K Belley. Tots: C3.00; C1 10, C1.20, C1.90. DF: £5.40. Trior. C10.20 CSF: C1.58. C10.20 CS* E11.58.
3.30 (2m 21 hdle) 1, Sadler's Resim (G
Tormey, 2-1 tax. Time/compar's top rating);
2. Water's Dessry (G-1); 3, Manical Microsch
(15-2) 7 ran 8, 61 P Hobbs. 7 ofac 23.00;
£1.30, £2.20, DF; £10.70, CSF: £14.46

Hereford

Going: good, good to soft in places 12.40 (2m 11 halls); Supermote (C Meude, 4.7 tay), 2, Soldie, Coue (8-1); 3, Indian Nector (9-1), 8 ran NR: Massdow Darrer 9, 191 M Pipe, Totte: E1.70; 21.20, 21.40, 22.20 DF E3.80, Trit: E11.50, CSF: 25.59, 1.10 (2m 3l ch) 1, Jason's Boy (R. Johnson, 5-2), 2, Sense Ot Valus (20-1); 3, Seahank Retrovar (11-8 tar) 5 ran. St. 131.J Bradley Tota C2 60, £1.50, £2.40, DF: £41.30, CSF.

1.40 (2m 11 hdle) 1, Gutterfdge (Mr A Evans, 9.4 fav); 2, Distant Storm (5-1); 3, Beryflum (5-2); 14 ran, 31-1, 41 P Evans Tote: £3.00; £1 40, £2.30, £2.40, DF: £8.40 Trio: £2.40, CSF, £13.75 Tricast £30.71 2.15 (2m3) ch) 1, Ground Nut (8 Powel, 4-5 tay). 2 Lord McMuraugh (4-1); 3, Stage Fright (20-1) 8 am. 12.5, F Buckler, Total (190, E1 10, E2 10, E3 00, OF, E5 00, CSF; 14 53

C 90, C1 10, 12 to, and the control of the S 2.45 (2m at 110yd hele) 1, Larado (Mr. S 2.45 (2m be); 2, Cul. De Sac. (3-1); 3, Branchethal Dulte (evens tan), 15 tath, NR: Ionica, 41, 261, N Chance, Tota: \$5.69; C1 30, C1 10, C1 10, De C7.90, Inc. \$2.20, CSF £16 76
3.20 (2m it 110yd ch) 1, Martest Gossip (Mr. J 112zard, 6-1), 2, Tockero (7-2), 3, Lauren's Hessure (10-1) Indian Delight 9-4 tan. 10 gan. 31 the A Africa Tota: \$5.70; £1.30, CSF: £1.00, C1 50, DF £11.10, Tipo £57.20; £3.30; £1.40, CSF: £1.40, Tipo £57.20; £1.30, CSF: £1.40, Tipo £57.20; Tipo £1.40, Tipo

24 78 Treast £190.44
3.60 (2m 1: far) 1, Kadou Nonantals (J.A. McCartin, 4-1); 2, Ten French (13-2); 3, Denny Bell (5-2 far), 16 san, NN: Fridge Scale 11; 71. O. Sherwood, Tote, £3-00; £1-20. £2-60; £1-50. DF: £19-50. Ten

Samlee displays gallantry beyond call of duty

BY CHIRUL MCGRATU

AS IF in rebellion against the torpor of its suburban environment, the stiff fences and unforgiving hill at Sandown Park yesterday more resembled landmarks on a battle-field. Even with just four runners, for instance, the thundering upheaval of the Bovis Europe Handicap Chase required unflinching courage from man and horse slike.

For Buck Jakes, the American grey imported with fanciful ambi-tions of winning the Martell Grand National, there was the dismay of a soldier who finds his resources inadequate in the line of fire. He was pulled up in the back straight.

For Inchcailloch, beginning to crack as the three remaining roomers

approached the second last, there was a direct hit - a horrid fall onto his neck, from which he and Richard

12.40 No Gimmicks. 1.10 Edelweis Du Moufin. 1.40 Nigel's Lad. 2.10 Strath Royal. 2.40 Macgeorge. 3.15 Second Fiddle.

12.40 STEVE HUMBLES BIRTHDAY MOVICES HUMBLE (22,903: 2m 7l) (9 runners)

1.10 DICK WARDEN HOVICES CHASE

7 6- RYSARSHYR 401 R Johnson 5-10-9

1.40 ATS RANDICAP HURDLE

2.10 WHARFE HANDICAP CHASE

(£3,574; 2m) (9)

(£6,730: 3m 11) (4)

| 1 D-21 ARCTIC FOX 25 (5) Ms M Resety 5-11-8 | P Muss
| 2 S2-1 ARCTIC FOX 25 (5) Ms M Resety 5-11-8 | P Muss
| 2 S2-1 ARCTIC FOX 25 (5) J J 70-11-5 | R McCodn (5)
| 3 J-7 M SEMECT 14 (5) J FRSSMM 5-11-6 | R Bestley
| 1 PALEOUS 77 (5) 6 M Moore 5-11-6 | R Bestley
| 5 60-0 CLEBOAL COLEMN 9 L Long 0-6-11-0 | R Supple
| 6 000 MS FRAMEPIAN 822 5 Richards 6-11-0 | R Buss (7)
| 7 456/ DISSAN RECTAL 928 0 Researe 8-11-0 | M Bussian
| 7 52-3 REVOLT 18 (8) T Estately 5-11-0 | L Wyer
| 9 FE PHARTOCMARRY 2467 (5) B Machages 7-30-8 | B Statey

C3,756: 2m 41 T1 (yo) (/)
1 -1-11 EDELMES OU MOULDE 15 (D.F.C.S) & Richards 5-11-10
P Carbelly

1 1-11 EXELVES OU BROOK TO F. (B.F. 6) I Eaclarby 5-11-5 ... I. White 3 1227 FEELS LIKE GOLD 574 (5) E Hickords 9-11-0 ... P Niven 4 420. MATTEE DE MUSICITE 202 (5) M Todhenber 5-11-0 ... R Guest 5-51-U PUREVALLE 23 (D.F.C.S.) M W Exclusive 5-11-0 ... B Survey 6 1-58 ROCKETTS CASTLE 28 Mrs S Branch (m) 7-11-0 ... K Johnson (7)

5-6 Edelmeis Du Mondin, 4-1 Promedum, 5-1 Dawn Mission, 7-1 Feets Like Gold, 12-1 Mistre De Musique, 16-1 Rockets Castle, 66-1 Ayeanstyn.

6 -PLS DURANO 7 (CD.S) T Society 6-10-12 ______ L Wyer 7 2-91 DUT DR A PROMISE 9 (D.F.S) L Large 5-10-11 ___ R Supple 8 1-24 DR 60MES 36 GF D.E.S) F Morphy 4-10-11 Mr O McPhal (7) 9 3211 SANT CEL 9 (7),6,5) F Jordan 9-10-9 ______ P Carbarry

4-1 MgcCs.Lad, 9-2 Saled Cled, 5-1 Dates Point, No Mora Hassle, 13-2 Dr Boots, 8-1 Marchart Ming, Durano, Out On A Processe, 14-1 Ingletocker.

26,730; 370 11) (4)
1 -211 STRADH ROYAL 9 (CD.F.A.S) 0 Bremain 11-11-10 M Brancia
2 111- COLOMEL IN CHEF 213 (CD.B.S) 6 Naturals 7-11-5
9 Carbony

[] Taufan's Melody (ridden by John Reid) and

Mongol Warrior (Darryll Holland) contest the

11-10 Colonal in Chol., 11-8 Spath Royal, 7-1 Washings. 12-1 Pennypot.

Prix Max Sicard at Toulouse tomorrow.

THUNDERER

GOING: GOOD TO SOFT

(£3,756: 2m 4f 110yd) (7)

in the gingerly fashion they did. And for What A Hand and Timmy Murphy, the desolation of a siege that is finally forced to yield, even with relief in sight. They had seized the initiative approaching the last, but could not endure the final push

up the Sandown hill. It was left to Samlee, who got up on the post for an improbable length success, to turn such inconsequential drama into a lesson for less frivolous arenas: never despair. At one stage, David Bridgwater had even considered pulling him up. Thirteen days earlier, Philip Hobbs had saddled Samlee to win over the big fences at Aintree. Yesterday, as he tailed off in the back straight, it looked very much as though his experience of National service had converted him into a conscientious objector.

Sarah Hobbs. the trainer's wife.

(£6,600: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)

2.40 EMMERDALE SILVER ANNIVERSARY

PP-P EASBY JOKER 7 (CO.F.G.S) S Relitioned B-12-0 Mr G Boomer (3) 221- MACGEORGE 210 (CO.G.S) R Lee 7-11-10 P Nives 44F- RARDOM ASSAULT 289 (D.6) D Nicholson 8-11-10

7-2 Real Tonic, 9-2 Cumbrian Challengu, 11-2 Minageorge, Random Assault, Issyln, 7-1 Regal Romper, 8-1 Beachy Heatl, Master Buston, 18-1 Eastly John.

HURDLE (£2,945: 2m 4f 110yd) (15)

1 3-F3 SOUTHERN CROSS 3 (BF.S) M W Easterty 5-12-0 ... B Storey
2 G20- LARRSHELL 224 J Flotisand 6-11-6 ... P Garbarry
3 -F31 SCOTTON GREEN 15 (D.G) T Easterby 6-10-11 ... L Wyer
4 1302 REACH THE CLOUDS 3 (G) J United 5-10-10 ... R Supple
5 4975 OUR MARN MANN 15F (S) R Whiteer 7-10-9 ... D Bendley
6 P4-P WHAT JAM WANTS 25 J J O'Mell 4-10-6 ... D Jewell (7)
7 0-03 SECIMON FOLDE 11 D Brancap 7-10-3 ... M Brancan
8 3040 ALAS CHIEB 11 Mrs S Smith 8-10-7 ... R Wilkinson (5)
9 -682 RANNING STARS 26 (8P) 6 Richards 6-10-0 ... R Michaelt (3)
10 0-3 PRIMITIVE HEART 12 H Messyder 5-10-0 ... R Michaelt (3)
11 5-3P DAN DE MAN 14 Mrs L Sidell 6-10-0 ... M Frester
12 04- EFAND 304 J Norton 6-10-0 ... M Frester
13 6844-MOONLEAT VENTARE 9 M Wann 5-10-0 ... J Callagiton
14 60- MSTY GREY 545 6 Forton 8-10-0 ... M O McPhael (7)
15 00-0 BONNY ROSE 24 L Lumpo 5-10-0 ... M O McPhael (7)
15 00-0 BONNY ROSE 24 L Lumpo 5-10-0 ... M O McPhael (7)
11-4 Raining Stars, 9-2 Scotton Grant, 13-2 Spotthern Cress, Larischill 3-1 Reach

11-4 Reining Stairs, 9-2 Scotton Green, 13-2 Scottern Crees, Larischill, 8-1 Reach The Clouds, Second Fiddle, 10-1 Primitive Heart, 12-1 physics

COURSE SPECIALISTS

TRAINERS: Mrs M Raveley, 52 winners from 194 number, 26.8%; D Michalson, 17 from 64, 26.6%; G Richards, 28 froms 117, 23.9%; Y Easterly, 17 from 77, 22.1%; O Bresman, 4 from 23, 17.4%; L Lingo, 5 from 31, 16.1%; J Fibrgerald, 15 from 97, 15.5%; Mrs S Sentill, 15 from 104, 14.4%.

JOCKEYS: P Niver, 47 winners, Iron 178 rides, 28.3%, P Carberry, 11 from 44, 25.0%; C Wiyer, 39 from 184, 23.6%; R Sugest, 17 from 81, 27.3%, M Senesson, 4 from 35, 15.4%; S Ltm. 3 from 23, 13.0%; Mr C Bosser, 3 from 28, 10.7%,

3.15 RACING CHANNEL HOVICES HANDICAP

HURDLE (£2,945: 2m 4f 110yd) (15)

4 -611 CUMBRIAN CHALLENGE 18 (CO.F.S.S) I Exemply 8-11-10

round for a circuit, the horse was so spooked and worried by the fences, and he thought about pulling him up. It's strange, they can react that way after jumping brilliantly round Aintree, it was only when the other two took a pull at the final turn that he could get back into the race."

Samlee, having confirmed his gallantry, will next go into action in the Weish marches. The sponsors leave him unchanged on 12-I for the Coral Welsh National, for which a penalty takes his weight up to 10st 51b, but the Tote cut him to 10-1, the same price as What A Hand.

The latter's last-gasp defeat com-pleted a miserable 24 hours for Murphy, who had received a 30-day suspension from the Jockey Club on Thursday for persistent whip ofences. It was ironic, then, that some felt the poor fellow to have waited too long before trying to galvanise Bengers Moor in the P & O Developments Novice Chase. This time, the hill was not enough to thwart Wise King's decisive dash for

His trainer, Jim Old, vacated the winner's enclosure only briefly when saddling Song Of The Sword for the next, the Bovis Crowngap Winter Novices' Hurdle. Graham Bradley gave Lady Lloyd-Webber's gelding a pave tady toyoweroer's genting a brilliant ride in front here, demoralising his pursuers one by one. Though his own mount also thred, walking through the last two. Bradley had preserved enough to hold on by five lengths from Prospero. Old said: "He is improving, because his attitude is getting better. He used to be wired to the moon."

Another superbly aggressive ride - this time from Adrian Maguire secured the Bovis Lelliott Handicap Chase for Oatis Regrets. As at the wedding feast at Cana, however, the best wine had been served first. Country Beau, who won the December NH Novices' Hurdle by eight fluent lengths, is inspiring the grandest hopes in Jeff King, who usually restricts regal airs to his purname.

"He never jumped at Newbury on his reappearance, but had the best bumper form in the country," the trainer said. "Long before he ever raced last winter, I knew he was the best I'd sat on in a long time." Certainly, there are more medals to

be won with him.

Leighton Aspell completed a double at Exeter yesterday on It's Wallace and the potentially high-class Boardroom Shuffle, but later broke his left collarbone in a fall from Brave Highlander in the ALC Windows Handicap Chase.

2.25 SYLVIA MARSHALL HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,443: 3m) (12)

7-2 Barny Hill Lad, 5-1 Gologe, Sancy Man. 7-1 Danger Flyon, St Melton Leisure 8-1 Roser Challenge, 10-1 Workingtorpeanuts. Entetaal 12-1 Clongour 14-1

3.00 N L M HANDICAP CHASE-(£4,401 · 3m 1f) (7)

(£4,401* 300 11) (7)

1 10P- SR LEDNARD 267 (8E.S.) O Steronod 7-12-0 J.A. McCarthy
2 1142 CARGLE'S CRUSADER 20 (F.6) D Gandollo 5-12-0 . G Upton
3 PP4- HAVE TO THOM 228 (0.F.S.) P Nichosla 9-11-12

2 20- A N C EDPRESS 294 (S.) J. King 9-11-6 ... J. Cautonins (S)
4 20- A N C EDPRESS 294 (S.) J. King 9-11-6 ... J. Pattley (3)
5 27- PRICE'S HELL 352 (CUS) N. Bailey 10-11-6 ... P Hentley (3)
6 13-1 FORTUMES COURSE 30 (CD.F.6.S) J. King 8-10-13 W Marston
7 4-33 HALL TROX 7 (CD.S.) K Bichop 11-10-3 ... R Greese
2-1 Carole's Cucader, 4-1 Price's hill, Fortunes Course 11-2 Sr Leonard, 8-1
Nave 7o Think, A N C Express, Hall Fire.

3.30 WEATHERBYS STARS OF TOMORROW OPEN NATIONAL HUNT FLAT RACE (\$1,371; 2m) (16)

8-11 Musikhili, 7-1 Broganies, Denn Cantony, 8-1 Laweston Mones, 18-1 Brush With Farne, 12-1 Countryman, 14-1 Ballybolless, 16-1 others.

TRANSERS: Simon Eate, 4 without from 6 towards, 66.7%, D. Nackelson, 78 from 72, 38.9%; Mass V Wylliams, 4 kpm 11, 36.4%, J. Long, 3 from 11, 27.3%, Mass J. Pluman, 11 from 46, 23.9%, J. Jellerson, 4 from 18, 22.2%, K. Badey, 12 from 60, 20.0%; N. Hanstotton, III from 41, 18.4%.

Blinkered first time

Ladbrokes has Dorans Pride at the head of its market at 5-1, followed by 6-1 Suny Bay. 7-1 The Grey Monk and 10-1 others. William Hill, however, has Suny Bay leading the betting

at 6-1, offering 7-1 Dorans Pride, 8-1 The Grey Monk and 12-1 others.

Big-race field 2.10 HOT POWER CHASE (Grade I:

1-11 DORANS PRIDE 31 (CD.F.G.S) 1-11 DORANS PRIDE 31 (CD.F.G.S.) trained by M Houngan 8-12-0 (ridden by R Durwoody); 41-7 KLAIRON DAVIS 45 (C.G.S.) A L Moore 8-12-0 (-), 2-41 MERRY GALE 15 (CD.G.S.) J Dreaper 9-12-0 (N Williamson); 15F-CORIGET 228 (D.G.S.) A P.O'Brien 7-11-8 (C.F. Swani; 21-P JEFFELL 15 (G.S.) A L Moore 7-11-8 (C.O'Dwyer), 312 OPERA HAT 15 (BF.D.G.S.) J Fowler 9-11-3 (P.Carbery). 10-11 Dorans Pride, 3-1 Klairon Davis 13-2 Jeffell, 8-1 Merry Gale, Opera Hat, 12-1 Corket.

and the second s

1 11 MUSIONEL 18 (6.5) D Wicholson 6-12-9 R 2 1- LEWESDON MANOR 199 (0.5) P R Webber 6-11-11

COURSE SPECIALISTS

JOCKEYS. E. Cadiaconen, 3 winners from 8 ordes, 37 5%, D Byrne, 4 from 19 21 7%, R Massey, 3 from 19, 15,8%; W Marston, 10 from 80. 11 4%. Only qualitiers.

CHEPSTOW: 3.20 Spring Double, WETHERBY: 2.40 Master Boston, WOLVERHAMPTON: 1.35 Danca To The Beat 2.10 Zermati. 2.45 Mr Majica. 3.55 Rev Mundi

Racing next week MONDAY: Southwell (AW. first race 1,00), Ludlow (12.35), Musselburgh (12.20). TUESDAY: Huntingdon (12.30), Plumpton (12.40),

Sedgefield (12.50). WEDNESDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 1.10), Hexham (12.50), Leicester (1.00). THURSDAY: Fakenham (12.40), Market Rasen (12.50), Taunion (1.00). FRIDAY: Lingfield Park (AW, 12,40), Chellenhern (C4, 12,45), Donoaster (12,05).

SATURDAY: Cheltenham (C4, 12.45); Doncaster (12.05). Haydock Park (BBC, 12.40), Lingfield Park (12.30), Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00). him at Cheltenham," Gandolfo said. Flat maelings in bold

TOWCESTER

THUNDERER 12.45 Quistaquay. 1.20 Museum. 1.50 Rakazona Beau. 2.25 Entefaat. 3.00 Price's Hill. 3.30 Muskhill.

GOING: SOFT 12.45 EBF STOKE PARK NATIONAL HUNT (Qualifier: £3,008; 2m 5f) (12 runners)

5-2 Cestatopusy, 3-1 in The Blood, 9-2 Servations Prote, 5-7 Jet Files, 10-1 Mayeston Affoir, Laterature Peris, 12-4 Wismettin Gol., 20-1 others.

1.20 PURY END CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS HANDICAP HURDLE (£1,895: 2m) (10)

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1.50 TOTE NOVICES CHASE (Qualifier: £3,966: 2m 6f) (10)

☐ Trying Again is to run in the Tripleprint Gold Cup at Cheltenham next Saturday, his trainer, David Gandolfo, confirmed vesterday. "I was pleased with him in the Hennessy as he didn't get the trip and the step down will suit

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941. Andi 100 ZOE Est. Tersado Res A5,000 miles. Alboys, Santroof 1444. Andi 90 Zul IAV Estate SE. Inchpo, 18,500 miles, I Owner

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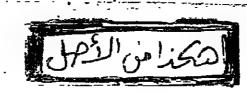
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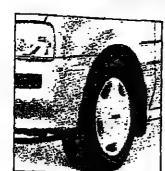
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SATURDAY DECEMBER 6 1997

When in Rome, do like Rover

Kevin Eason on why Sophia Loren and the rest of

suits parted as she into midst like a goddess sent to dispense eternal wisdom to poor mortals lost in a great cosmic car park of dowdiness.

We waited anxiously for the whispered blessing, for could it be true? Yes, Sophia Loren thinks Rovers are stylish.

That's Sophia Loren, screen goddess and nearest equivalent in Italy to royalty. When she speaks, Italy listens — which is exactly what Rover was hoping for this week.

Anyone looking out at their driveway and thinking that their old Metro hatchback needs a wash will find this extremely difficult to believe. but in Italy, the name of Rover is actually chic.

That's Rover, one-time manufacturer of the staid, solid yet elegant motors nicknamed "doctors" cars" in the Fifties and Sixties, later unenviable member of the nationalised lame duck known as BL and now British offshoot of BMW.

In this country, we have so many confused ideas of Rover: what to believe. Every time the company reinvents itself with a new image, something comes along to explode all the

In a decade, Rover has been through three sets of owners and two major shifts in design, from 10 years of Hondadependent cars since 1980 to brief months of freedom that produced the new Range Rover, MGF, Rover 200 and the Land Rover Freelander.

until BMW exerted its control. In Italy, there is no preconception about where Rover stands in the marketplace, no burden of history when it comes to writing out the

cheque. Which has probably helped in double sales in the past three years as the company aligns itself not in the category of safe, solid cars but in the elegant, stylish bracket filled in the boutiques of Italy by the likes of Versace and Armani.

Su successful is the transformarion that the late Gianni Versuce owned a Range Rover, Giorgio Armani has one and both the Armani and Versace companies use Rovers as com-

pany cars. Oh. and the goddess also has a Range Rover, £48,000 of wood and leather luxury in the hest traditions of English



Eau de Longbridge: for the girl with the classy chassis



The Queen's PSB at a Rover shop. No old Metros, though

carmaking, which is why she was at a dinner on the eve of the Bologna Motor Show to underline the fact that Rover

can equal style.

All slightly unbelievable to cynical Brits, but there was La Loren squirting a new Rover perfume - only on sale in Italy - on her ample assets and warming to the theme of Rover as a designer label.

Journalists in Italy don't think it is hilarious that the bottle for the new unisex perfume - Essenziale by Rover - is in the shape of a Rover 600 radiator grille. It makes sense to them because the Rover 600 — a car almost forgotten in Britain's middle market melee - is considered

"Look, Rover has taken on the impossible and achieved something not even Fiat could do, establishing such an identifiable image," said one after the gala dinner in a remarkable private pala:20 where La Loren glowed under ceilings painted by Leonardo da Vinci. (By the way, she is 63 and really is that beautiful).

More to the point, the company will sell up to 65,000 cars in Italy this year, its biggest export market with Rover the fastest growing brand - outselling Mercedes, BMW and all the Japanese marques.

Launching a perfume might seem spurious, but Salvatore Pistola, head of Rover Italia, says simply: "Why? We are selling a lifestyle, a way of



So Italian buyers don't just go to their local dealer to cough up the money and wander off. In Rome, they turn up at the Rover Village where the kids play with radiocontrolled cars on a mini-

the

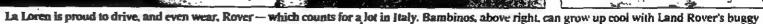
seek out details on the history of Rover, an independent magazine road test on the model of their choice or take a drink in the Rover pub while they think the baby buggy ... as well as over the deal. Or simply the perfume, of course. The concept is based on the browse the classic cars on loan

Rover Sho or the Oueen's 1973 Rover PSB saloon. They can

notion that italians will accept a Rover as a premium purchase, an accessory as stylish as an Armani suit, a Versace also buy the sweater, the watch, the bike, the boots, even

How long before the concept arrives here! Not long, which is why John Parkinson, the company's European bass. was in Belogna for an insight into Rover Italia's success. And as La Loren sprayed the new perfume on her perfective formed decollerage in from of him, it must have seemed not just a thousand miles from Rover's Lunghridge factory but a world away.

Off-road, as driven by the cognoscent:



Hundredth year of the club that nearly never started

ne hundred years ago this week, the remark-able entrepreneur Frederick Simms organised the first general meeting of what was eventually to become the RAC - his new Automobile Club of Great Britain. He hoped it would hecome a national institution having the real and true interest and development of the motor carriage movement at heart".

Simms had become frustrated by the way that the Motor-Car Club, which he had founded as the "Autocar Touring Club" in 1895, had been used for the questionable business interests of company promoter. Harry J. Law-

son, and had resigned.

Aided by the disillusioned secretary of the M-CC, Harrington Moore, he then drew up a set of rules for an dependent club modelled on the successful Automobile Club de France, which Simms had joined soon after its foundation in November 1895.

Though his old friend, the Hon Evelyn Ellis, had initially tried to dissuade Simms from setting up the AutomoLord Montagu on the man whose big financial gamble began it all

ingly gave his Simms graded the replies into

support once he saw that Simms was determined to go ahead. "Sympathisers" and the Harrington Moore, as acting "Yesses", but of the 164 who secretary of the proposed club, had declared they would be willing to join the ACGB, a found suitable London premises at 4 Whitehall mere 30 turned up for its preliminary meeting on 10 August 1897. Ellis, who Court. Simms leased the building for three years and canvassed "gentlemen and chaired the meeting, told his

were prepared to pay £200 cach into a guarantee fund for the club, and asked those present how much they would contribute to guarantee the new club's running costs. Not a hand went up: it looked as though the new dub was "Noes", the Then, in stage whisper,

Simms said: "Ellis, put me in for the lot!" With the club's immediate future guaranteed. Simms and Harrington Moore set about organising a club that would - unlike the already discredited M-CC audience that he and Simms "worthily represent in a truly national sense the best interests of what promises to be a

great national industry".
On December S. the "Today's Arrangements" column of The Times duly announced that the inaugural general meeting of the Automobile Club was to be held at Whitehall Court. Simms had enticed members of the press to the event with an invitation to lunch and the news that the meeting would be accompanied by a "demonstration of the most recent types of motor

Before long, Roger Wallace, OC, who had been appointed

between the Automobile Club and the rival Self-Propelled Traffic Association. The Automobile Club, which became "Royal" ten years after its foundation, was beginning to exert a strong influence on motoring in Britain.

is future course became dear as early as February 1898, when a meeting suggested that the club cooperate with the Local Government Board in framing regulations for the design of motor vehicles.

Henry Sturmey, the founding editor of The Autocar. suggested that the club should "endeavour to facilitate for eign travel in motor-vehides... keep an eye on legistation which would be deterrent to the advancement of automobilism", and produce a map showing steep gradients to enable motorists to plan their journeys to suit their feeble power of their horseless carriages.

And Harrington Moore told members that the club was gathering information on "accommodation for motorcarriages ... stores at which

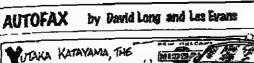


Frederick Simms: entrepreneurial founder of the RAC

petrol and suitable oils may purchased... electric charging stations ... firms who undertake the repair of motor-vehicles [and] compe-

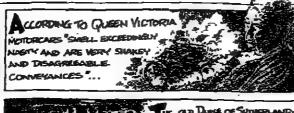
tent drivers . It was the start of the tradition of RAC service that today looks after more than

five million full and associate members. What a contrast with 1897, when just 163 "gentlemen interested in road locomotion" constituted the entire membership of the Automobile Club, owning a mere 60 to 70 motor vehicles



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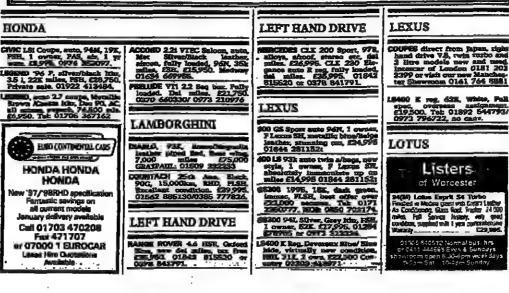
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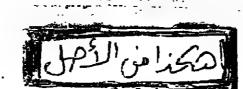
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Labour is attacking motorists under the limit — so why not ban alcohol entirely?

Christmas drink-drive campaign deserves boos

very year at about this time the Government launches the Christmas drink-drive campaign, and every year, although I am averse to being thought predictable. I feel an obligation to reinforce the message. But this year I also feel obliged to tell the new Government that its nanny-knows-best tendencies are beginning to get on my wick.

ning to get on my wick.

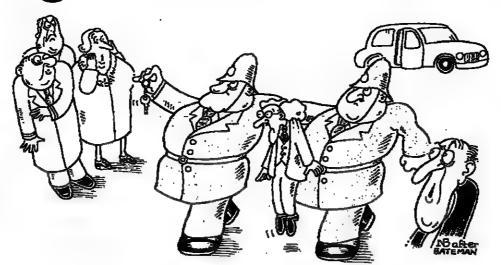
I have thought for years that the ultimate in drink-drive sanctions would be a change in the law making it illegal to have anything at all to drink before driving. Labour is clearly heading that way with the heavily leaked plan to reduce the alcohol limit.

We would all know where we were with a law that said that you cannot drink at all if you drive. In the meantime, the law does not say that, but the Government is trying to give the impression that it does. The Christmas campaign launched this week is the worst in my memory, in that it both patronises and insults motorists, which is hardly the best way to get people on your side.

The posters carry the words "You again?" in large type with the slogan. "have none for the road" underneath in smaller type. Other advertisements show four drivers claiming to be responsible because they only have a small amount to drink before driving. This attitude is then mocked with the words "responsible... for killing, crippling and maiming thousand of people in drink-drive

This is absurd. People who improve their behaviour deserve to have that improvement recognised, not ridiculed. Every teacher and every sensible parent knows that a child who spelt 20 words wrongly a month ago but now spelts only two incorrectly should be praised, not condemned for the remaining errors.

Obviously I am not advocating posters that thank people for



THE MOTORIST WHO HAD BRANDY BUTTER ON HIS CHRISTMAS PUDDING

"only" having one glass of wine or half a pint of shandy. But alcohol used to be entrenched in the social life of this country and I believe that the vast majority of people have done well to discipline themselves not to indulge in it when they are driving.

Yet here we have a campaign that makes ludicrous connections. Apparently people with small amounts of alcohol inside them routinely "cripple" others. The Christmas campaign literature that I have seen makes no prominent mention of drugs, so presumably the Government chooses to think that one bitter shandy is lethal enough to warrant ridiculing motorists, but driving under the influence of cocaine is of little consequence.

There has long been an intrinsic weakness in the Christmas campaign. If it is wrong to drink and drive at Christmas then it is clearly wrong at all other times of the year, but the emphasis on Christmas, though understandable, tends to imply that drink-driving at other times is not quite so reprehensible.

DRIVEN TO DISTRACTION



Peter Barnard

The problem is not only that a large part of the publicity budget goes into the Christmas campaign. That is also true of the police budget, so that drinkers are aware that the risk of being caught at Christmas is much higher than at other times of the year. There are obvious dangers here and the Government would do better to attend to them rather than spending time and money treating drivers, including responsible drivers, like errant

None of which is meant to

suggest that I have gone soft on drink-driving. It is obvious that if several drinks affect one's ability to drive, one drink must also do so. But it is also true that heart attacks at the wheel contribute to a significant number of accidents every year, and most doctors now say that a glasss of wine a day reduces the risk of heart attack. Therefore it is simplistic to imply that every drop of alcohol that passes the lips of a driver reduces him or her to the status of a

callous killer.

If the Government is so convinced of the evils of drink that it will put out posters gratuitously insulting motorists who so much as stand in a pub doorway to shelter from the rain, then surely it is about time Labour went the whole hog and proposed amended legislation making it illegal to drive with any alcohol in the blood.

Unless of course the Christmas campaign is just a good excuse to let the public relations lads loose with their invective — always a handy substitute for doing something constructive.



With its super-short chassis and low-slung seats, the Nippa offers surprisingly good headroom

Nippa, son of Mini, is a snip of a car

y first impressions of this car were oddly familiar. to wheels at each corner looked toy-like, and once seated, my bottom seemed very near the ground, yet there was far more headroom than one should expect in something less than 11ft long.

There was a lot of internal space, a very short bonnet and a feeling that my feet on the pedals were only inches away from the engine. But nothing could be stranger than the name: this was a Perodua Nippa. made in Malaysia and imported to Britain since August.

Then I remembered where that familiar sensation came from: it was what I'd experienced about 30 years ago when I first drove a Mini.

Of course, the world has moved on. Unlike an early Mini this Nippa boasts four doors, a five-speed gearbox, side-impact beams, height-adjustable headlamps, an engine immobiliser, remote hatch release and a two-year warranty.

But like the early Mini, it is the cheapest car in Britain. At £5,886.05 on the road it undercuts the Kia Pride (£6,064), the Suzuki Alto (£6,175) and its close relative the Daihatsu Cuore (£6,500).

It beats the cheapest Fiat Cinquecento (£6,647) by almost £800.
Although it certainly can't match the fun afforded by the rather more expensive Sporting version of the Cinquecento.

Alan Copps gets an attack of basic nostalgia driving around in

Britain's cheapest little mover

NIPPA

Engine: 3-cylinder 850cc giving 42bhp at 5,300rpm. Economy: Urban 41.5mpg, combined 53.3mpg. Performance: 0-60mph, 15.8 secs; max 34mph. Price: £5886.05 basic or £6,520.55 for GX including metallic paint, rear wash/wipe and radio.

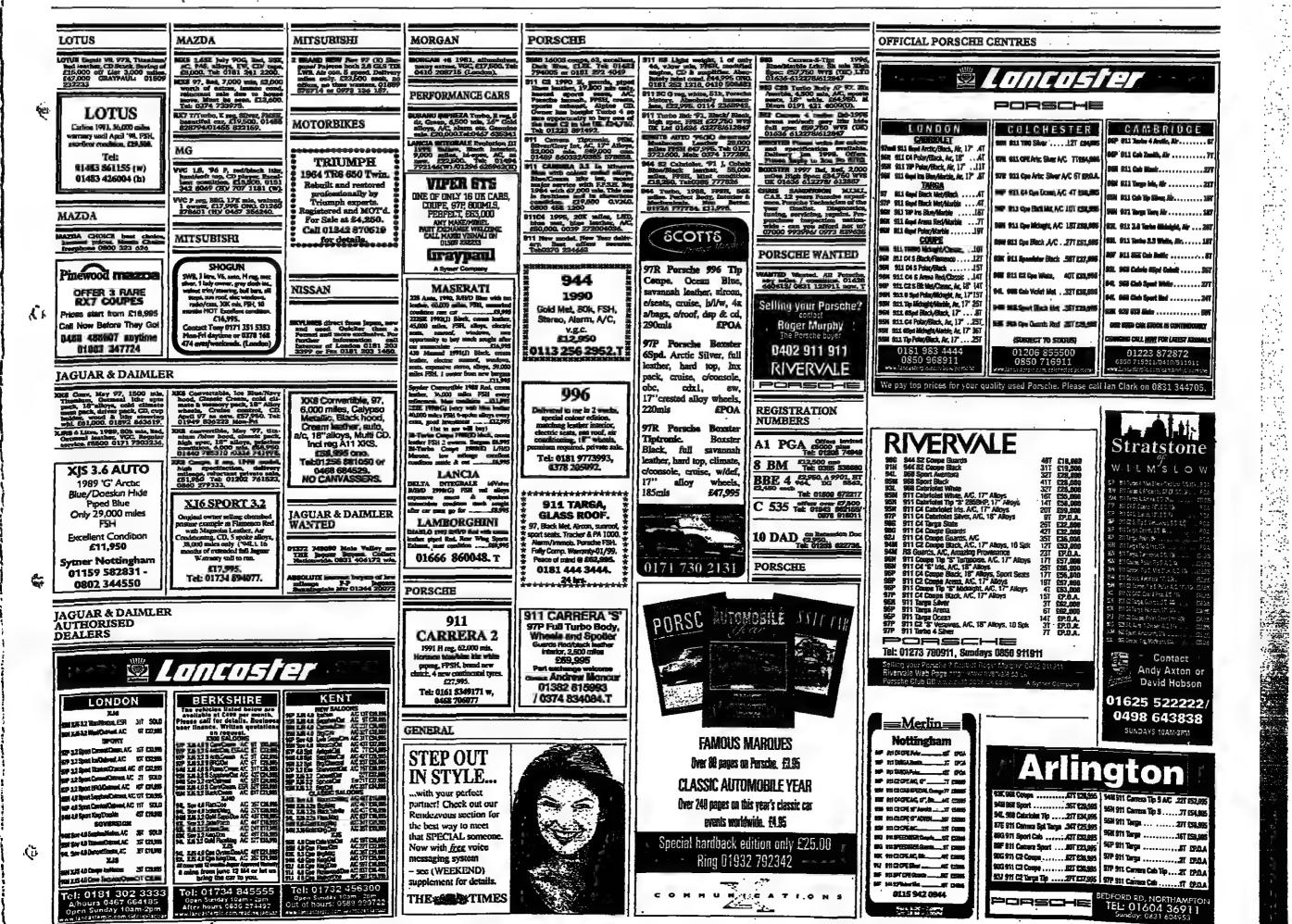
This oddly exotic world of the super-cheap car makes sophisticated superminis like the class-leading Volkswagen Polo (£8,145), Citroen's fast-selling Saxo (£8,195) and the stylish Ford Ka (£7,995) look astronomical in price. But even Ian Robertson, managing director of the importers, is happy to accept that this is strictly a town car.

There it lives up to its name. The steering is precise, the acceleration — with only the driver on board — is surprisingly brisk, and although it is nearly a foot longer than the original Mini masterpiece, there's a lot of satisfaction to be had squeezing it through the kind of gap usually claimed by motorcycle dispatch riders.

n the open road it shares the Mini's limitations, which have long been overcome by the likes of the Polo and Saxo. My two satirically minded older children burst into spontaneous applause when the speedometer struggled up to 70mph on the motorway. But then road-testers children do tend to get spoilt riding around in all kinds of exotic machinery.

"You've got to remember this car has five doors; that sets it apart in this class and it will return an average of 53mpg," says Robertson. "I've driven it on the motorway. I wouldn't want to do that every day, but it's quite adequate."

but it's quite adequate."
I came away thinking that the Nippa is likely to remain an interesting little curiosity rather than a mainstream car. But the Chancellor, Gordon Brown, could change that. "With all the concern about urban congestion, I think we might find in the next budget we get a boost," says Robertson.



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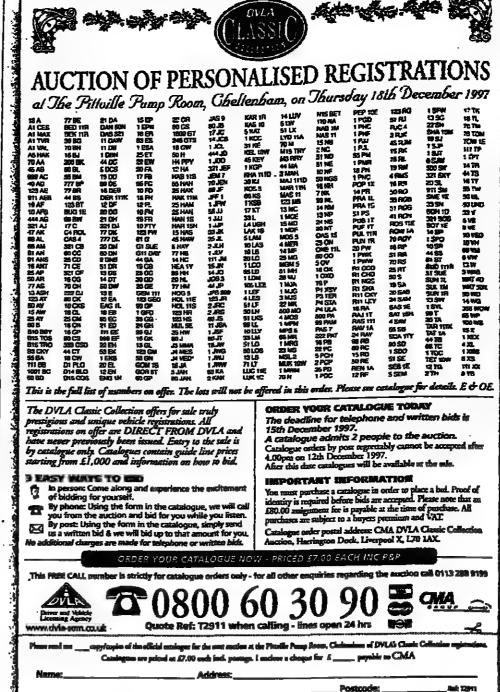
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You will believe a panda can fly

PCs don't plod in cars built by Ford's new performance unit, says Stuart Birch



Powerful Lotus Cortinas were used on patrol in the early 1960s

he orange Ford RS2000 accelerated hard, exhaust snarling, dust swirling in its wake, the driver clicking through the gears. Its brake lights flashed briefly and then it was through the corner, speed building towards 110mph.

Two hundred yards behind, PC Bryan Evans in a V6 ford Mondeo Estate, reached for the blue light controls, switched on the siren and floored the throttle.

He had a tough task, and he knew it for the RS he was chasing was a Formula Two rally car in the skilled hands of 1996 British Rally champion Gwyndaf Evans (no relation), Ford works rally driver. And Gwyndaf does not like being

caught — by anyone.

But PC Evans, of Greater Manchester Police Accident Investigation Unit, proved no slouch when it came to co-ordinating throntle, steering and brakes in a neat piece of wheeled artistry called the high-speed pursuit.

To the accompaniment of the wailing, whooping siren and the howl of tyres, the 170bhp Mondeo put up a fine performance although, not surprisingly, the long arm of the law was not quite long enough to feel Evans's collar in the 260bhp RS.

in fact, Evans the Rally and Evans the Law were both behaving very responsibly on a track in Essex, demonstrating just how well - and safely - a road traffic police car handles when it has to tackle

the toughest opposition... It must do that despite carrying

Ship and

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2375.

up to 180kg of equipment in the back. But contrary to popular belief, police car engines are not generally tuned to provide extra performance; the cost and potential damage to reliability are against

It is essential, however, that the cars' chassis are modified to counter the effects of that extra weight on a police vehicle's handling characteristics.

So the focus is on improving its ability to cope with corners and with some of the more punishing problems likely to be met on a high-speed chase, including, tronically, sleeping policemen. And it is Ford's motorsport experience that is allowing this to be done.

Ford supplies about 40 per cent of the police cars on UK roads. from the panda-car Flesta to the 24valve Scorpio used to patrol our motorways.

British police forces run about 27,000 vehicles, including 22,000 vans and cars, which are replaced at a rate of 5-6,000 a year. Police use of cars has expanded rapidly since the Second World War. Before then, cars were little used, as most forces relied on motorcycles to control traffic.

Ford has a long history of supplying police vehicles, and has just opened a "one-stop shop" offering fully prepared "blue-light vehicles" ready for service. At the high-security Ministry of Defence Police headquarters at Wethersfield, Essex - former American Air Force base — Ford Special Vehicle Preparations (SVP) can prepare up

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Police Ford R\$200 at an official test in 1986, up against a performance version of the company's Sierra — a joyrider's favourite



Ford's 170bhp six-cylinder Mondeo has toughened suspension

That motorsport experience is

now being put to far more extensive use on the SVP cars and vans.

Gordon Spooner, who plays a key role in engineering Ford's rally

cars, is a joint managing director of SVP. But John Berry, his co-

managing director, stresses: "We

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market; we ensure that our vehicles

suspension and brakes and equip-

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Typically, the cost of uprating

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operate as an integrated system."

to 2,500 cars and vans a year in a, modified suspension and raily dedicated new facility.

Stiffening and strengthening the suspension is essential, and the work carried out on the Vo police Mondeo means that despite its 180kg load, its handling and roadholding can equal or better that of a standard car.

In 1995, Humberside Constabulary's Escort Cosworth was the first police car modified in conjunction with Ford Motorsport. It was given an underbody skidplate — like a giant sump-guard — and had

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police forces. Each has its preferred way of

doing things, so there is no such thing as a national "standard" police vehicle, and even when SVP supplies cars, a constabulary will often put the finishing touches to it when it is delivered: "However, about 25 per cent of the vehicles by us are fully equipped," says Berry.

ping, a police car with roof light bar, siren and radio, is around

£1,600. A challenge that SVP faces

is that there is little commonality of

equipment between the UK's 56

Extensive testing is carried out at Wethersfield on the track that the Evans duo used to good effect. It features highly demanding corners plus the use of a runway for highspeed lane changing and flat-out testing. Durability is vital: police patrol cars often have a 150,000-

SVP also equips armed response vehicles, which are equipped with bullet-proofing and special cases to carry weapons, including very seri-ous stuff such as the Heckler and Koch machine pistol.

Unmarked police cars are also prepared at Wethersfield. For

VOLKSWAGEN

those, blue lights may be built into the door mirrors or tucked away beneath the bumpers. But using flashing blue light on a cable. attached magnetically to the roof favourite in Hollywood police films - is not popular with British police: it tends to slide gently backwards when pursuit speeds get to the 100mph mark.

ut there is one piece of driving much beloved of Hollywood (Steve McQueen's Mustang in Bullitt really started it all) that does concentrate minds at SVP: the flying" police car. If it hits a humpback bridge or

sleeping policeman at speed, the downforces that the chassis is subjected to on landing can be enormous. So SVP applies special strengthening - again based on lessons learnt from rallying - that will ensure the suspension does not appear through the bonnet. John Berry phrases it carefully: "We design and build vehicles to meet the most arduous of conditions."

But I think what he really means to say is: "Eat your hearts out, Dukes of Hazzard."

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IN BRIEF

Britain's toughest test for classics

RALLYING: Britain's longest. toughest event for classic cars starts this morning when more than 100 vehicles leave Land's End for John o'Great's on the fifth LE JOG.

They will drive across Dartmoor, through the Welsh borders, over the Pennines and via Edinburgh to reach the finish at dawn on Tuesday. Among those taking part will be Phil Surtees in his 1942 Willys Jeep, which took first place in the recent Peking to Paris Challenge. Details: 01886 833 505

Light flight relief

FLYING: Aero-enthusiasts will be looking on the lighter side

of life this weekend. The world of kites, model aircraft, balloons, microlites, hang-gliders and homebuilt planes is the focus of the International Air Sports Exhibition at Telford Exhibition Centre, near Shrewsbury today and tomorrow.

The show, which is organised by the British Microlite Aircraft Association and the British Hang-gliding and Parascending Association, will also give visitors a chance to book flying bolidays.

MoT testers belted

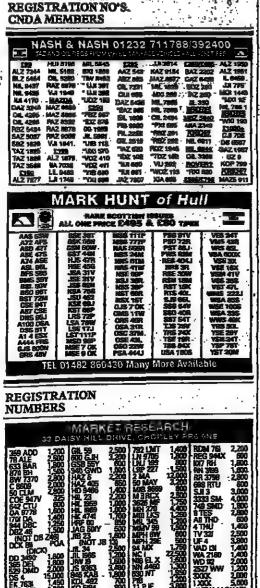
SAFETY: A damaged car seatbelt was passed by all 50 MoT testing stations chosen at random by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents in a recent survey. Most of them also failed to spot other seatbelt faults. RoSPA is calling for extra training for MoT testers as a

The survey was carried out with a car that had a cut in a front seatbelt near its anchorage point, a rear belt that would not retract fully and a centre rear belt partly hidden under the seat. Not one station spotted the front damage. Eight per cent failed the car because of the nonretracting belt and another 22 per cent pointed it out and issued advice, only 46 per cent recovered the centre belt to inspect it.

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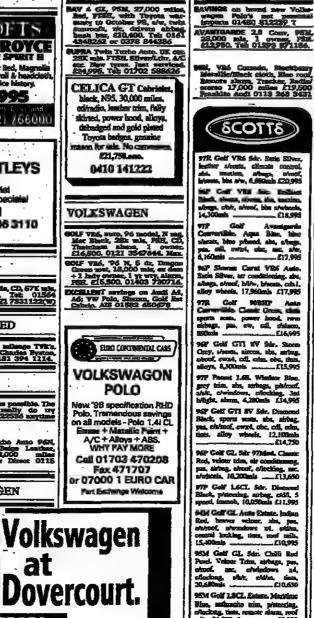
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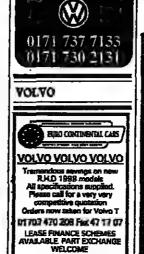
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SOME YOU WIN 57

How did small investors fare during the year?

RUSSIAN AROUND 58

Can just two men analyse 27 states for a new fund?



The high cost of making the grade

Clare Stewart looks at the problems and extra costs involved in buying, restoring and living in an historic or listed property

ream homes come in many varieties — a with roses round the door, a new showhouse, or a near roofless ruin. For one recent buyer, the dream was a Tudor gatehouse. The buyer was a lady in Buenos Aires, who snapped it up after having seen it advertised on the Website of Pavilions of Splendour, a London agency specialising in listed houses.

If you are drawn to older houses, lured by their cosy thatched appeal or elegant Georgian windows, you need to be prepared for both the extra costs and extra work that may be incurred, even if the property is in good order. A structural survey is vital and for older houses, a more detailed report by a specialist surveyor is particularly important.

"Never rely simply on a mort-gage valuation," said Stephen Bon-iface, of Boniface Associates, an expert on historic properties. It may be that the mortgage company is happy with a basic report, but the buyer is likely to be storing up problems for the future, if they go ahead without an expert view on the property's weaknesses.

Such a report may be more expensive than a survey on a modern house, but if carried out by someone who, said Mr Boniface, is up to date with modern conservation practices, might mean the buyer does not spend money on costly or even inappropriate and

potentially damaging repairs. Key areas of concern in older houses are damp and timber prob-lems. A survey also has to look at where more modern repairs may have been made to the original fabric, but which may conflict with these materials leading to problems, said David Goodridge, a

London specialist surveyor.

The Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS) will provide. a list of specialist surveyors accredited by its Buildings Conservation Group, while organisations such as the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings (SPAB) are also

able to provide information. If the house needs renovation, a good survey provides the first stage in ing costs, which the mort-

gage company will need to know. Building societies will look at each property on its merits, and few rule out lending on buildings over a certain age. However, many lenders are not keen on older and listed houses, and may steer clear of those built in unusual materials or in some cases those that are timberframed and timber-clad.

Some building societies may be prepared to lend only a small a greater part of the purchase price from other resources. In addition some lenders will only consider a loan once much of required renovation work has been carried out.

pecialist lenders such as the Ecology Building Society do have broader lending criteria and, said Paul Ellis chief executive, may consider loans on near-derelict buildings, where there is a viable opportunity to bring the house back into use. The Ecology Building Society does stip-ulate the use of appropriate materials, where possible reclaimed, in the restoration, and also expects certain levels of insulation and energy efficiency.
Boying a listed building imposes

conditions which may prove costly and onerous and it can be a criminal offence to carry out unauthorised work on a listed building. A large number of houses built up to 1840, said English Heritage, which "survive in anything like their original condition" are likely to be listed. Most will be classified as Grade II listed which means, work on the house must be approved by the loc-al council's conservation officer.

If the property is classified as Grade II or Grade I, any work on the house must be approved by English Heritage, which also offers advice to property owners. For information on architects, engineers and conservation specialists, the



Worth the wait: Nicola Macdonald with the 1720s Grade II cottages that her husband and a colleague from work are restoring

Pooled resources provided the keys

Professional knowledge of old buildings and their conservation beloed to guide Land their conservation nerpen as guarantees two families through the complexities of buying a listed building (Clare Stewart writes). Gordon Macdonald and Stephen writes). Lawrence are both project managers at Carp-enter Oak and Woodland in Chippenham, Wilishire, a company which specialises in the conservation of timber-framed buildings. "We were both looking for properties of a similar nature and price but almost everything we found in that price range was a wreck that needed a lot of time and work to make habitable," said Mr Macdonald.

They decided to pool their resources and were then able to look at a wider choice of properties. Among these was a pair of stone and

Society for the Protection of Ancient

Buildings is another good source. "Buying professional advice may.

appear expensive but always works

out as the right decision," said.

Gwyn Headley, managing director

Earn a GUARANTEED

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(that's the equivalent of at least 8% gross p.a.)

Pavilions of Spiendour, Insur-

they worked. The cottages, bought for £110,000, are about 270 years old and Grade II listed. They were originally built for labourers

at a nearby stone quarry.

A detailed survey was carried out, which, said Mr Macdonald, was essential. Finding a surveyor who understood older buildings and their conservation was also important.

The two couples went to the Ecology Building Society for a mortgage because of its interest in the sympathetic conservation of buildings. "We realised that there would be problems with damp and insulation and felt strongly that chemical damp-proof treatments

were not necessarily the best option."

All the work in the cottages had to be

ance is another area where it is vital

to get the right cover. Many of the

larger insurance companies will

take on a loth-century cottage or

Queen Anne mansion, but because

it is out of the run of their usual

business, you could pay a big

premium. "The biggest problem with owning a listed building is

that of being underinsured," said

Ian Berry, manager of the listed

properties division of Lambert

Fenchurch, a specialist insurance

tor. Mr Macdonald added: "It helped that we presented a cohesive plan for the two cottages together and the inspector was delighted that were demolishing two horrendous 1960s

Both families expect to invest more than £20,000 in renovation work and are confident it will be money well spent. "We would not do it unless we were certain we could recover the investment," said Mr Macdonald.

Mr Macdonald, his wife, Nicola, and fiveyear-old daughter, Megan, moved into one cottage in August, though more work has to be done, while Mr Lawrence and his partner, Stephanie Waddington, expect to move into

The cost of rebuilding a listed

building several hundred years old

is very difficult to estimate accu-

rately. Many general insurance

companies may use modern re-

building rates in assessing costs

which could result in inadequate

cover, and leave homeowners facing crippling bills in the event of a fire or other serious damage.

Lambert Fenchurch seeks to cover this problem by guaranteeing that it will meet the difference if the property is underinsured. While insuring a listed building may prove more costly than a modern house, there are some advantages with older properties. "Timberframed properties are often without foundation so are not affected by subsidence. Also stone-built houses are very strong and resist ground movement," Mr Berry said.

If you own a property with a thatched roof, it is again worth using a specialist, rather than a general insurer. Because of fire risks, thatched houses have to have their wiring checked and approved every six years, keep chimneys swept and have firefighting equip-ment to hand. Insurance will be 20 to 40 per cent higher for thatched houses than for slate or tiled-roofed homes, said Mr Berry, who also manages Thatched Owners Insur-ance, part of Lambert Fenchurch.

In spite of the extra costs that may be involved, househunters should not be put off buildings with thatched roofs. Thatch has had a bad press because of the fire risks when the roof is very new," said John Husband, senior partner of Humberts, the estate agent. "But it is worth remembering that it is a very good insulator, so that the house will be cool in summer, warm in winter. It is also pretty obvious from looking at thatch whether or not it needs replacing." For brokers specialising in older houses and thatched buildings, contact the British Insurance and Investment Brokers Association (BIIBA).

CONTACTS

RICS 0171-222 7000 ■ BITBA 0171-623 9043

SPAB 0171-377 1644 ■ Boology Building Society: 01535 635933

Stephen Boniface Associates: 0181-554 7914 David Goodridge 0171-730 0701
Pavilions of Splendour 0181-348

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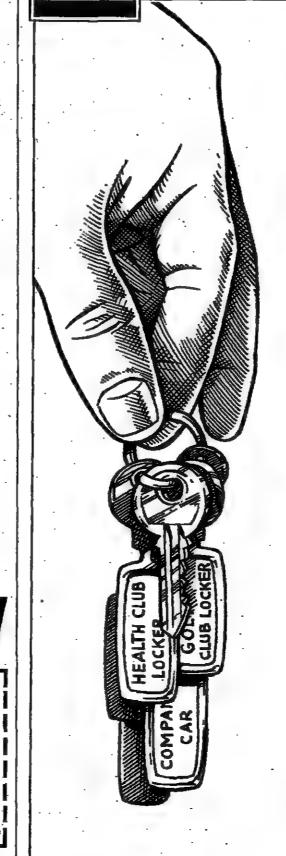
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Caught on the Web

earch the Web. Down-load data. Surf the Net. various exhortations to tap into the Internet and find out the answer to everything you ever wanted to know.

Recent Weekend Money articles on share prices on the Internet have brought requests from readers who are seeking to know more about other financial information on the Web and how to find it.

Whether you want to get to grips with the judge's opinion in the Louise Woodward case. flick through Nasa's snaps of Mars or find out if you have won the National Lottery, the Internet is the place to go.

In just the same way you can tap into a vast range of personal finance information. from the latest share prices to good deals on pet insurance. Forget about cutting out

please-send-me-more-information coupons from the back of magazines, and waiting for a response to come through the letterbox. The Internet is increasingly used as a marketing tool by companies to promote their products and This week we take a brief

look at what it all means and how to work the World Wide

What exactly is the

In simple terms it is a A network that links information sources to provide a global library. Ignoring the sometimes baffling rechnical speak, you will perhaps find it easier to think of using the Internet just as you would any library, searching through different books or information sites to find the details you require. Unlike a conventional library, however, the internet provides access to information that is being constantly updated. The Internet, as a vast communications network, encompasses electronic mail or e-mail, allowing users to send messages worldwide.

How do I get onto the

A personal computer. Internet service provider are the three essentials. There are numerous companies that provide the online connection to the Internet, with the largest including ST Internet, Pipex and Compuserve. Costs will vary and some personal com-



The internet is growing in popularity as a tool to provide much financial information

puters include a free Internet trial period thrown in with the purchase. One connection option through BT Internet for example costs £11.75 a month on top of which you pay according to the time you spend online, with calls charged at local rates.

How do you find your way around?

Once you are connect-A ed up, the library of information is accessible. To pinpoint more precisely what you need to know, it is a matter of using so-called search engines such as Yahoo!, which are directories of available sites, from which you can choose by subject

If you are looking for general information about a topic you can either type in a generic phrase, such as home insurance or fixed mortgages which will bring up a daunting list of possible sites. Each will give details of the products offered by a particular company, and how to find out more information.

Alternatively if you know precisely what site you want, ou type in its specific address. For example if you wanted to know what Direct Line had to offer, it can be found at www.directline.co.uk.

Where is Where is a good place

useful place to start is a general personal finance directory or Money World (www.moneyworld.co.uk), an electronic magazine of

As with all Web sites it will link into other sites such as those of banks, building socieries and other financial services groups.

Can I find out about share prices?

It is possible to follow A share price movements in markets across the world. not just in London. You will have to pay extra if you want to see live or real-time share prices. ESI (www.esi.co.uk). one provider for example, charges subscribers £20 a month, or for a more limited selection of ten shares, the charge is £5 a month. Alternatively prices supplied with a 20-minute delay are usually free, if you have registered with the provider.

(www.marketi.co.uk), the data service that supplies City dealing rooms with shares prices, also supplies the Internet, though again to see real time prices there is a charge. At present for London Stock Exchange prices it is £15 a month.

What about selling shares? What about buying and

It is possible to deal in To avoid being deluged with information a It is possible to deal in shares once you have registered with the relevant broker. Groups such as ESI have links with brokers: alternatively you can go direct to companies such as Sharelink, the largest execution-only broker in the UK. (www.share-

link.com) Dealing this way can be a cheaper option. says Sharelink, which charges according to the amount of trading carried out. For examole, there is a flat fee of £15 per trade, regardless of its size, while if you want to buy and sell frequently, there is a Frequent Traders Club which allows unlimited trading. To join this there is an an annual fee of £60 and a quarterly

administration charge of E6. Q What not services? What about other direct

Websites are becom-A ing more interactive although the majority are used by financial services groups to provide information on products and services.

This week Interactive Investor International (III), an investment information service on the Internet, announced further expansion of its services by teaming up with Dialog, the online information

group.

Dialog is to provide some of its services free to investors using the III site which will mean they have access to news headlines and summaries from a wide range of sources.

For help with using the Net there is a UK Internet Users Group on 0171-608 0608.

Save the new Ford Edsel

Prepare for the worst. This week's proposals for individual savings accounts confirm the suspicion that new Labour still thinks savers are good but investors are bad. If Britain's richest minister still believes that anyone with £50,000 savings is "very well off", then any venture to encourage the bulk of families to provide for themselves looks doorned. As soon as OK savers build up a modest sum, they become non-OK investors.

Private investors and regular savers must expect the thinking behind Isas to govern other reforms: the stakeholder pension and its ramifications, the review of capital gains tax and changes to inheritance tax. A compulsory low-level funded pension might well give the pretext to stop contributions above that level qualifying for income tax relief.

The annual gains tax allowance might be abolished and left to self-assessment. If long-term gains are to be taxed less, pension funds could be hit again and

property gain an edge over shares. On Geoffrey Robinson's definition, the threshold for inheritance tax could allow only for modest savings and an average £65,000 house, perhaps £100,000 in all. New Labour's roots are still so shallow, however, that a £500,000 house in Islington might just as easily be accommodated as a norm for Middle England.

The isa proposals exemplify this mental muddle. They bring together three strands: Labour's desire to persuade bands of low-income earners with virtually no financial savings to put a ittle aside; firm pre-election promises to keep popular Tessas and Peps; and the dire warnings issued by the Inland Revenue when presented with any new scheme offering tax relief.

Not surprisingly, the product coming off the drawing board is the Ford Edsel of savings. The Isa is a vehicle designed with elements of what everyone asked for, but in consequence is costly to

concerns about stock

market stability have

spurred many inves-

tors to consider switching

from shares to gilts and bonds.

But as one Times reader has

discovered, changing invest-ments held in a personal

equity plan can be a complicat-ed and frustrating business. John Bailey, a retired civil

servant, has used self-select Peps from the Bank of Sont-

land to protect his share

holdings from tax since 1990.

Some of his shares, including

Sheli, have performed very

well, so last month he decided

to take profits on holdings

"My wife and I decided to

switch some of these equities

to corporate bonds to provide

greater stability as well as

improved income," he says.

"We consulted our Pep-provid-

er. who said there was no

problem: so we gave instruc-

tions for the sale of some

However, when Mr Bailey

tried to reinvest his money, he

found it difficult to obtain

information about buying cor-

porate bonds. The Bank of

Scotland does not have a

stockbroking arm, so its self-

select Pep is run on an

worth about £15,000.



produce and will appeal to few. Labour's own ideas are confused. The new guard rightly sees that people who want to save but have little to spare will prefer a simple, flexible scheme that lets them take out cash if needed and not have to worry about tax. For them, long-term savings are best built by short-term saving, made easier by transferring odd sums into savings using a card at the local cash machine or supermarket.

The folksy wing, including unions, Co-ops and Frank Field, wants to revive low-level insurance schemes from before the welfare state, "offered by friendly societies and other insurers which have traditionally attracted funds from smaller savers. These have virtues, but cost is not one of them. Nor is flexibility. Their value depends on

regular saving, year after year.

These two objectives do not easily sit in the same scheme. Once a scaled-down annual Pep is added, Isa becomes complex, costly and illogical, Established private investors find little welcome, not least from a £50,000 lifetime ceiling. Yet a shopper is encouraged to pop £50 into Japanese share warrants along with the weekly groceries.

The Inland Revenue also went ballistic. It fears that interest on scores of billions in building society deposits will become nently tax-free. So the "cash component" is limited to \$1,000 a year, except for transferring Tessa holders. Detailed rules are threatened for the £1,000-ayear "life insurance component" to make sure it is not a cash substitute. Most bizarrely, cash would be allowed in the "stocks and shares component" only if no interest is paid on it. the return being pocketed by the lucky manager. Yet £50,000 could be invested in bords. on which interest would be cash-free.

Can the Isa be saved? Only if a Government with a huge majority really wants to listen. Ministers must first stand up to the Inland Revenue. Time and again. Revenue caution made damp squibs of Tory initiatives such as profitrelated pay, share-save schemes and Peps. To make them work, tax incentives were then progressively made more generous, sometimes going over the top to compensate. To have a chance, Isas should start with the maximum relief or highest risk of tax loss that ministers are prepared to concede later.

aving one portmanteau scheme makes Isas complex not simple. Few providers would offer an Isa with the full range of options. And they would be aimed only at those transferring £50,000 at once or saving the maximum E5,000 a year.

On cost grounds, small savers will usually be offered Isas with only one component. So why bother to cram them all into one straitjacket? If the scheme is to attract those looking to better themselves, the £50,000 lifetime limit must go, whatever the restrictions on annual saving or Pep transfers. Pep holders paying standard rate tax might not want to transfer to Isas, depending on what comes of the gains tax review. By then. the Chancellor might know whether he wants to boost savings as a whole to help the economy, or just encourage those near the poverty line to help to cut welfare spending. Isas would sacrifice the former for a hope of the latter.

Hassle factor kicks into play as Pep investor switches funds

ther information and makng investment decisions.

He considered buying units in a corporate bond fund, but encountered two problems. If he held the units within his existing Bank of Scotland Peps, he would have to pay two lots of fees — one to the Bank for administering the Pep, and a second to the fund manager for setting up units and running the corporate bond fund. This would wipe out much of the enefits of investing in the fund.

He considered transferring one or two of his Peps to a Pep manager who offered a corporate bond Pep. Such Peps typically levy just initial and annual charges on the underlying fund. Fees for administering the Pepare usually waived.

also reduce the risk of loss for

money over a wider range of bonds than he would normally be able to afford.

lan Millward, manager of investment marketing with Chase de Vere Investments, the independent financial adviser in Bath, recommends two corporate bond Peps. The Virgin Direct Income Pep has a running yield of 7.11 per cent (no initial charge, 0.7 per cent annual), while the Legal & General Corporate Bond Pep has a running yield of 7.4 per cent (no initial, 0.5 per cent annual charge).

However, Mr Bailey then discovered the Bank of Scotland had rolled all his self-select Peps into one entity. Under Revenue rules, investors may not transfer part of a Pep's investments, As the bank could no longer

he either had to transfer all his

wurance (

money, or none.

Mr Millward says many investors may find similar problems when transferring money. "If you set up more than one Pep with the same Pep provider, it will roll your Peps into one. The computer systems can no longer tell which investments were made in different tax years," he says.

The problem would be solved if the Inland Revenue would allow investors to transfer a portion of their entire Pep holdings, regardless of whether it comprises all the investments held in a single Pep." investors who want to trans-

fer individual Peps should invest with a different Pep provider each year.

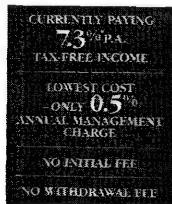
Matthew Orr, managing partner of Killik & Co, the broker, recommends two eurobonds. The BT bond rams until 2003, with a running yield of 7.05 per cent and redemption yield of 7.125 per cent (price iOlp per unit). Its coupon is paid on September 15 every year. The British Oxygen Corporation bond complements this, paying its coupon on February 18. It runs until 2004, with a running yield of 6.9 per cent and a redemption yield of 6.75 per cent

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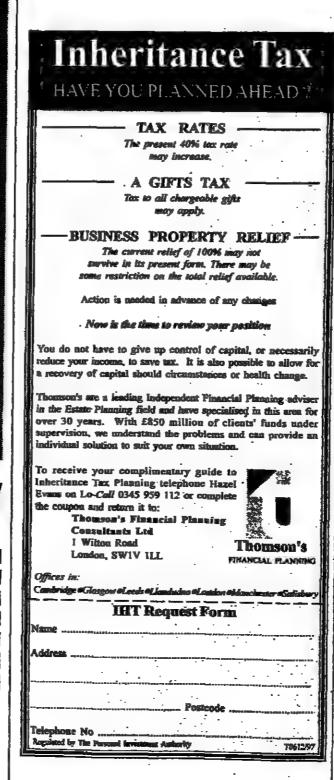
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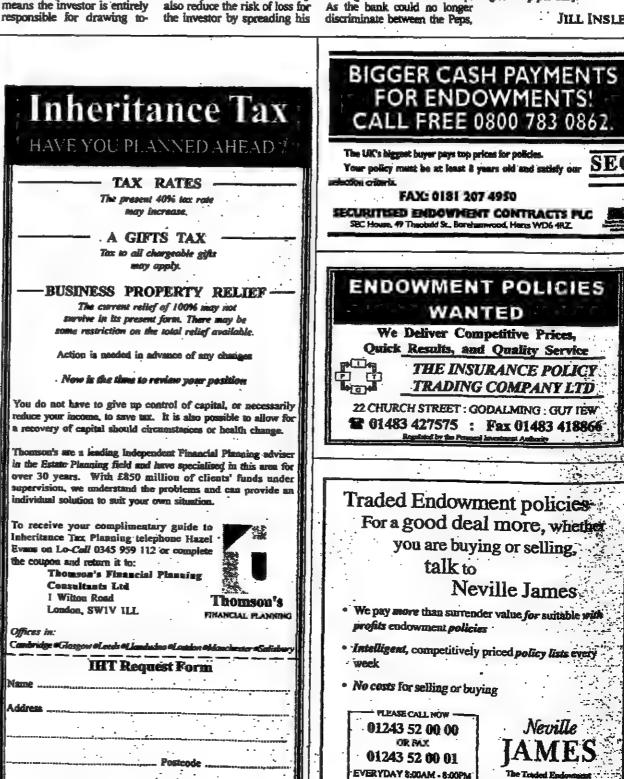
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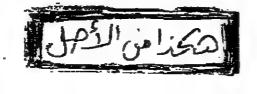
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*When the slopes beckon



already fuelled the fantasies of Britain's 320,000 skiers. This year, swapping the slush on the M25 for a life on the piste will come cheaper than last season. Because of the strength of the pound, not only will there be more to spend on ski passes but the extra cash will stretch to a few more rounds of Glühwein (Lizanne Rose and Susan Emmett write).

Those heading for French resorts, the most popular destinthose heading for French resorts, the most popular destination says Thomas Cook, the travel company, will get more than 4,846 francs for £500, an extra £66.68 for your money.

Austrian schillings are even better value, yielding £70 more than last year, and if you are off to Switzerland, that's an extra

£49 in your pocket. A six-day ski pass will cost you between £60

and £106. But if you are more interested in the apres-ski it may be worth getting a half-day ski pass valid from midday.

Skiing at 40 mph down a black-run may be perilous, but not taking out ski insurance is much more hazardons. Because flinging yourself down a mountain is a little more dangerous than lying on a beach, ski insurance is about a third more

expensive than standard holiday cover.

Expect to pay about £25 a week if you are heading for Europe and about £60 for two weeks in the US, although prices vary. However, not all policies cover off-piste skiing unless you are accompanied by a local guide or qualified ski instructor.

An ugly sister at first glance

ust in time for the pantomine season, the Treasury has produced its own piece of slapstick, unintended but nevertheless not to be

The launch of the individual savings account (Isa), intended to ensure that we all enjoy prosperous Christmases in the next millennium, had various elements of farce: A multimillionaire minister dismissed anyone with savings of more than £50,000 as a fat cat. Those Who merely aspired to retire with this kind of money were as unamused as those in the Croesus

category.

There followed confusion over official figures. The numbers who would be hit by the £50,000 Isa maximum investment limit began at 750,000 and ended at 350,000. However, there is no guarantee that this last total is accurate, merely conveniently

Like any Whitehall farce,



COMMENT ANNE ASHWORTH

Personal Finance Editor

the piece had its traditional features. It has become customary for Treasury ministers to provide, whenopportunities for the life insurance industry. Not wishing to break with the past, new Labour has allowed £1.000 of the £5,000 annual Isa limit to be placed in insurance

In one wing of the Trea-sury, the Economic Secretary threatens to remove the livelihoods of insurance chief executives who have been tardy in paying compensation to victims of pension mis-selling.

In another, the Paymaster General passes over to

these unrepentant fellows still more responsibility for

our financial futures. The Isa has been launched with the admirable aim of encouraging those on low incomes to save. Yet the Government is happy to give a slice of the action to the same industry that urged thousands of poorly paid employees to leave Serps, the additional state pension scheme for personal

In a scandal that has yet to be fully investigated, the tiny contributions of these unfortunate individuals have been eaten away by

administration charges. The structure of the new Isa, part cash, part insur-ance, part shares and unit trusts, has seemingly been designed to suit life insur-

ers and their systems.

Ministers claim that the involvement of the supermarket banks will ensure a high level of competition, and thus drive down

There is also some talk of fresh regulation to ensure that all Isa providers display commissions and fees in a straightforward way. However, successive attempts to ensure charge disclosure have failed because some insurers have the utmost expertise in concealment. This weekend, the Isa

has few supporters. But the unenthusiastic reception for its debut means that it during the consultation period. will surely be remodelled

Meanwhile, better deals for small savers are al-ready arriving. The Bristol & West pre-Isa account will be paying 7.25 per cent on balances of just £10.

Insurance covered a winter break

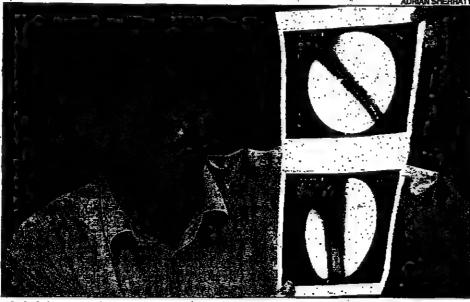
wo members of Week-end Money reader Dave Tupman's ski party suffered injury during their two-week holiday in Andorra last January. Fortunately, Mr Tupman, a design engineer from Guildford, Surrey, was covered with fully comprehensive ski insurance — his total claim came to £3,000 (Lizanne Rose writes).

"The incident happened on the very last afternoon of my holiday. We'd had a great day snowboarding and were heading up to the top of the mountain for a final descent, But the ground was icy and as I was getting off the chairlift, my snowboard slipped from under me and I fell backwards."

Mr Tupman broke both bones in his left forearm in three places.

"I knew immediately that it was broken - I heard the crack - and after five minutes it was extremely painful. The difficulty was that because it occurred at the top of the mountain. I had to get down gain before I could be treated. I had either the option of a sledge or chairlift and chose

Because Mr Tupman was covered, any treatment would



Painful souvenir: Dave Tupman with the X-ray plates from the hospital in Andorra

would need hospital treatment. and an ambulance was called. I was detained overnight and had a 4'2-hour operation the next day with two surgeons plus an anaesthetist. When it came to settling the bill, I contacted the insurance com-

"After X-rays at the Not only does insurance Medicentre, it was clear. I cover you for hospital treat-would need hospital treatment, ment, but most companies will also pay for return flights. Mr Tupman had missed his flight because of the operation but his policy covered him and a new plane ticket was arranged for both him and a friend to return home. An extra night in

ance on all my trips but never their insurance again."

had to make a claim before. The actual cost of the insurance is quite cheap - I chose Columbus because it only specialises in insurance and was also cheaper than a travel agent. I was impressed that the claim went straight through. Despite now having 22 screws in my arm, I haven't been put off. I do plan to go "I have taken out ski insur- wouldn't hesitate to take out



Ouch: the X-ray confirmed that his left forearm was broken

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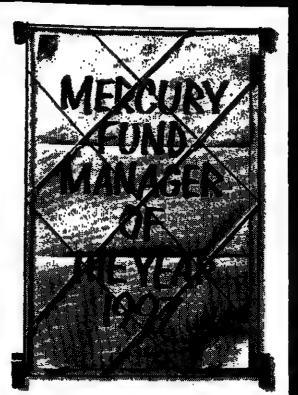
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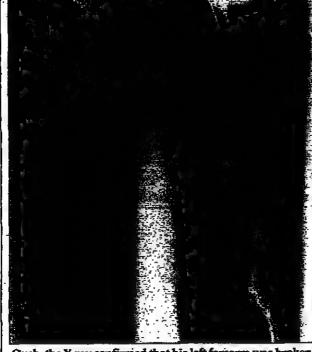
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In search of the greatest asset

t might not happen from day one, but if you are going to make a success of building a small enterprise into a successful business the chances are that at some stage you will need to take on staff.

Although this may at first appear to be a straightforward task, recruiting and holding on to good people is far from easy, as many stressed personnel managers will tell you, and if it is your first experience of employing staff, knowing how to go about it and what it is likely to cost can make life easier, if not cheaper.

■ Word of mouth. Undoubtedly the easiest and cheapest way to recruit people is by employing someone you know or you have heard about by word of mouth. This will take risk out of recruiting and at best it might cost you a few pints down the local pub or a dinner at a nice restaurant.

However, care should be taken when employing somebody who is a friend because. although it may seem like a fun and cosy arrangement at the outset, it can be hard to manage friendships in a business environment and acrimony could

The jobcentre. The jobcentre is a government-run organisation which provides a free employment service for mnanies and jobseekers. If you are looking for gener-

al staff such as administration or manual workers it will be an ideal place to go. The staff

with you to help you to find the person you need by setting up

■ Colleges and universities. If you are looking for someone with specific qualifications who need not necessarily have work experience, there is a good chance that colleges and universities will advertise your vacancy internally free of

Advertising in the press. If none of the cost-free options for finding the right person is open to you, then it is time to put your hand in your pocket.

Advertising in newspapers and magazines can be a very successful way of identifying a number of quality people who could do the job for you. However, it can be very

expensive. If you decide to advertise in your local newspaper you can expect to pay a rate based on each single column centimetre of space What you will pay depends

on the catchment area and circulation of the newspaper and the bigger it is, the more it The Newcastle Evening

Chronicle, for example, has a circulation of 114,000 and charges £25.55 for each single means that if you placed an advertisement for a job measuring 10cm deep across two columns of the page, your bank account would end up £511 lighter.

The Evening Standard in London, which boasts a circulation of almost 450,000, has a rate of £68 per single column centimetre, which means the same sized advert would cost £1,360.

Press advertising is not guaranteed to work and if you do not find the person you

Recruitment agencies. Many people are put off from using agencies because on the face of it they are very

They charge, on average, around 15 per cent of starting salary as a fee, which would mean a bill of £2,400 for a person earning £16,000 a year and a sizeable £3,750 for an employee starting on £25,000.

However, the benefit is that most agencies work on the basis that they charge you nothing at all unless you do take someone from them.

This means you can see as many candidates as you like but if you do not recruit any of them there is no cost to your business. You might also be able to employ somebody on a temporary basis, paying an hourly rate, to see if they are suitable before taking them on permanently. You will also have to pay an agency fee for a temporary placement.

Headhunting. Headhunters target individuals who have a reputation for being a leader in your industry but are under contract with another company. They are carefully approached and asked if they would be interested in working for you, although your company's identity is not ini-tially revealed; so, if the person is offended by the proposition, your business should not be ffected. However, if you use a headhunter expect to part with between 25 and 40 per cent of what you would expect to pay as first-year salary.

Next week: Your responsibilities as an employer



Temp won permanent role

Kay Quance, left, with new recruit Anahid Blannin at Exor's offices in Bristol

Kay contacted Lucy

xor Corporation, a house, was happy to pay a £1,500 recruitment agency fee last December after temporary worker Anahid Blannin impressed so much that the company decided to offer her a perma-

US-born Anahid worked with the Bristol-based company, which set up three years ago designing highways management programs, as a temp for a month before the personnel manager, Kay Quance, decided she was just what was needed to run its administration department.

Bristow Appointments, the recruitment agency which placed Anahid in the temporary position, and negotiated the fee with Gilly Robertson, a senior consultant, before

offering Anahid the position of administration manager. Kay says it was worth paying the recruitment costs for somebody so good.

"Right from the start we were very impressed with Anahid's ability and attitude, so we decided to take her on full-time. Paying £1,500 might seem like a lot. but it would have cost more if we had advertised and had to spend time interviewing."

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the unequal treatment of widowers by some pension schemes, with egard to spouses' past contributions, and by the state earnings related scheme (Serps), has been highlighted recently in Pensions Postbag. Now Weekend Money reader Peter Nuthall, of Brighton, has pointed out that other groups who also face discrimination by company pension schemes are the common-law husbands or wives of members and same sex partners of members. Mr Nuthall asks how much longer companies will

be able to drag their feet in withholding pensions from these groups, bearing in mind the ruling in the European Court against South West Trains for not making available staff travel benefits to partners in same-sex

Pensions Postbag replies While most occupational pension schemes now provide a spouse's pension when a member dies, the latest annual survey of the National Association of Pension Funds (NAPF) shows that only 4 per cent of private company pension schemes and 2 per cent of schemes for public sector employees provide pensions for common-law partners "as . a matter of course".

However, 69 per cent of private schemes said they may do so "at trustees' discretion", though in the public sector only 13 per cent of schemes give trustees such discretion. Most public schemes stated that they would not provide pensions for unmarried partners "in any circumstances"

Asked in the NAPF survey whether their schemes have provisions for same-sex rela tionships, nearly a quarter of private schemes said they did, but in the public sector less than one in ten schemes did so. Even so, among those which did, in 66 per cent of

Treatment of employees' partners is under scrutiny



private schemes the benefits were at the discretion of the

Clearly. schemes as yet have rules to cover pensions involving either common-law or samesex relationships. The rules refer only to spouses. According to Roger Key, occupational pension schemes expert at the actuaries Watson Wyatt, the South West Trains case

doesn't affect things.
He explains: "What would have an effect for partners in same sex relationships would be if a case were brought claiming that rules which restrict benefits to married partners were discriminatory because these couples are not able to marry even if they

Currently, most commonlaw and same-sex partners have to rely on the goodwill of the trustees as to whether they inherit any benefits. They may qualify for a de-pendant's pension. The way

trustees exercise their discretion in this matter varies from board to board, says Mr Key. "Different boards of trustees have different atti-tudes," he said. They will normally look for some kind of financial dependence by the partner on the deceased member. For example, if they have taken out a very large mortgage together which one could not have afforded alone. Trustees may also take into account the length of the relationship."
Where life insurance is

provided by a pension scheme prior to retirement, it is more common for members to be able to nominate who they want to receive that benefit, which is normally a lump sum of between three and four times annual salary. Many pension scheme members believe they should have the same freedom to decide who should inherit their pension benefits after their death. However, Mr Key points

out: "What few people realise is that group pension schemes are a form of insurance as well as savings vehicles. The original idea behind them was that everyone should pay something in and they would each then get something out related to their specific needs. Thus, there are some people who get paid a pension for only a few years after their retirement while others who live to 100 receive a great deal more. If everyone wants to get out what they paid in, it would mean that many would receive a lot less than they do today.

With a personal pension, people have more control prior to retirement. If death occurs, the value of the fund will normally be paid into an investor's estate or can be put in trust for specified beneficiaries, so the money can be holder wants.

When an annuity is purchased, the situation is more difficult. By law, a pension can only continue to be paid after death to a spouse or to someone who is financially dependent on the annuitant. What's more, not all insurance companies will issue joint life annuities to samesex partners, though by shopping around, says Peter Quinton, of the Annuity Bureau, it is possible to find one.

In theory, members of company pension schemes could also take a transfer value and buy such an annuity if they wanted to be sure of providing for a dependent partner. However, Mr Quinton says: "Transferring out of a final-salary scheme at retirement is not usually advisable. The member himself will often lose out heavily: for example, he would receive no discretionary pension increases. It would be better to approach the trustees and ask them to consider providing a pension for a partner."

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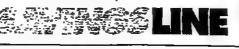
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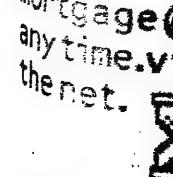
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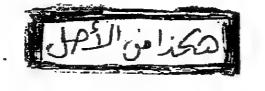
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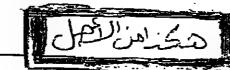
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Winners and losers in shares

This year has been an eventful one for investors, as a number of key events have set the pace in the stock market. For much of the year it has followed a bullish upward track although there was a full just before the general election. Overall, however, the market confounded the pundits who expected it to run out of steam, and it went on to test record levels above 5.330 by early October.

in the summer came the rush of building society demutualisations accompanied by a flood of free shares and the addition of thousands more shareholders to boost the ranks of small investors. More recently, the impact of economic problems in the Far East has rattled equity markets worldwide and prompted sharp falls in prices. Analysing where in 1997 small investors have spent their money or sold up, highlights some interesting trends and changes in

What are the most popular

A Building societies turned quoted companies feature large in assorted lists of popular shares. For example, Halifax tops the list of most bought shares for both Charles Schwab (formerly Sharelink) and The Share Centre, the execution-only broker. Halifax, which floated in June, and began trading at 7742 p. also has the largest shareholder base, with about five million shareholders, double that of Abbey National, the second largest.
HSBC, Cable & Wireless, and

Standard Chartered saw their share

Clare Stewart on how small investors fared in the past year. Which stocks did they buy, sell or tuck away for tomorrow? prices dive in line with Far Eastern through NatWest Stockbrokers show

markets but then were boosted as sharp-eyed investors took advantage of the cheaper stock. Other blue chip stocks in demand have included Marks & Spencer, Shell and BT while more recently NatWest Stockbrokers reported demand for groups such as Unilever, Granada and Reckitt & Colman.

Among more speculative plays, Dragon Oil stands out as a clear favourite. The exploration company saw its shares surge ahead in the spring on the hopes of strong drilling reports, but continued to find support later and, in August, topped the buy list at NatWest Stockbrokers. At the beginning of the year its shares were about 30p, before more than tripling in value to peak at 1085 p.

Q which shares sold the most? Which shares have investors

Halifax is also top, or near the top of the rankings for shares sold in greatest quantity, according to several brokers. In part, this is explained by the influence of Halifax with its enormous shareholder base. with investors looking to take profits on their free shares before any further big falls in the market. Similarly, Alliance & Leicester, and Norwich Union number among Charles Schwab's top five shares sold, while in recent months deals

investors moving out of other groups such as Woolwich and Abbey National.

BT, as it regroups after the abortive MCI deal, has a foot in the camps of both sellers and buyers, as does National Power, Investors looking to take profits have sold while those that favour utilities as an attractive safe haven in uncertain times have piled in. British Energy was second on the sale list for customers of The Share Centre, which says that investors sold up before having to pay the second instalment on their part-paid shares.

Which sectors have small investors been watching?

A Banking, pharmaceuticals and integrated oil groups led the stock market on its strong upwards run, and groups such as Glaxo Wellcome, Lloyds TSB and Shell were snapped up by investors large and small. Retailers have also been sought-after, with Marks & Spencer one of the most heavily bought, while the sector overall was boosted during the summer on talk of windfall spending by recipients of free building society shares.

Samples of popular shares by Charles Schwab on a quarter by quarter basis also highlight demand for Safeway and Sainsbury among

food retailers, while Laura Ashley, the struggling fashion group, has also found support. This, says Guy Knight, communications director. perhaps reflects both buying earlier in the year on hopes of an improvement in the group's performance, as well as bargain hunting more recently, as bad news and the heardroom shakeout when Ann Iverson left.

knocked shares lower. Barclays Stockbrokers primts to considerable investor interest in leisure stocks, including quoted football groups such as Manchester United, Chelsea and West Bromwich Albion. This interest, says Barclays, spilt on. This increase says parerays, spin over to buying of shares in groups such as Whitbread, and sports retailers such as JB Sports.

Unsurprisingly, utilities and privatisation stocks are important to many small investors, given that they may have had their first taste of share ownership via one of the hig public issues. Among those sold most heavily during the year have been BG and Centrica, while Railtrack more recently has been sold as investors decided to realise their gains against the uncertain market background.

What about smaller com-panies and more speculative

Apart from Dragon Oil, inter-Apart from Dragon On, much est has focused on a number of

as Fortune Oil and Monument Oil attracting attention on hopes of significant new finds. Similarly biotechnology and pharmaceutical groups are often snapped up in anticipation of a major new product or research breakthrough. Shield Diagnostics Group, for example, started the year at about 130p and by March had hit a peak of \$05p.

O Does the snare under changes? Does the share trading pattern

A Investor reaction to events through the year has proved revealing, says Matthew Orr of Killick. the private client broker. The usual ratio of buying to selling of 60-40. switched to show more sellers during the August market wobbles. But after sharper falls in October, there was a marked turnround to 75-25 as buyers moved in.

"It was the polar opposite of what happened in 1987 when there was more of a herd instinct and panic selling," said Mr Orr. Now, he says. the short-term punter has been replaced by longer-term investors looking for buying opportunities.

There has also been a continuing

rise in the number of personal equity plans held by investors, both single company and general Peps. This reflected both the amount of money individuals had to invest and a bener understanding of their tax advan-tages. While their future was uncertain, their popularity may have reflected a rush by investors to buy while stocks lasted

Let the taxman boost your Christmas giving

Ann Iverson was shown the door at Laura Ashley in November

giving to charity has fallen over the past 20 years and the young are less likely to give than the old, according to a recent report by the Institute for Fiscal Studies. But with Christmas only a few weeks away, even the tight-fisted may feel compelled to make a donation.

With a little planning, you can make gifts more tax-efficient and increase the amount that charities receive. About £4 billion is given to charity in individual donations each year. Yet as only one in ten is tax-effective, charities lose millions of pounds. Oxfam,

one of Britain's largest The idea is that ... expecting charities get next year more money by from new regular donors reclaiming the "recruited" this Christbasic rate of tax mas. About 40 per cent of the at no cost to you charity's regu-

lar denors join at this time of year and because their donations will be tax-efficient, Oxfam will get an extra £330,000 from tax relief. £130,000 more than it expects to raise in one-off

donations this Christmas. Mike Wade, fundraising manager at Oxfam, is keen to encourage people to make year-round tax-efficient donations: "Rather than giving a une-off donation. if people give in this way, it can raise the value dramatically." If you pay 23 per cent income tax or more, there are three taxefficient ways to donate money: gift aid, a deed of covenant, and give as you carn.

Vicki Pulman, of the Charlties Aid Foundation, said that although charities are now aware of more tax-efficient ways of raising money, the public is still uncertain. "A lot of people don't understand the schemes and have misconceptions, thinking that the conditions are more restrictive than they are," she said.

The idea behind the schemes is that charities get more money by reclaiming the basic rate of tax from Inland Revenue at no extra cost to you. You make a

basic-rate tax and the charity reclaims the tax. A basic-rate taxpayer giving £250 must have earned £324.68 before tax, so the charity would get £250 plus £74.68 of tax from the Revenue.

There is little point making these types of donation if you do not pay tax. Higher-rate taxpayers, however, have the added advantage of getting full tax relief on gifts. Those paying tax at 40 per cent can reclaim the marginal rate of 17 per cent. So if you are a higher-rate taxpayer and make a donation of £1,000, the charity will get £1 208 70 and charity will get £1,298.70 and

you get £220.78 back. Of all the taxefficient was set up in and the best for tax-efficient one-off donations. But the mini-

mum dona tion is £250 cash, which is regarded as being paid net of basic-rate tax. There is no maximum limit to this type of donation.

Deeds of covenant, which have their roots in the Church giving tradition, are the oldest and most widely used taxefficient donation. They are legal agreements to donate part of your income each year and must last four or more

There are two ways to give

through a deed of covenant. Under the most common. known as a "net of tax" covenant, you sign a covenant agreeing to pay the charity a certain amount after deduction of tax every year. So if you are a basic-rate taxpayer and agree to pay £77 each year, the charity will reclaim £23 and receive £100. The other. known as gross convenant, is not as widespread but means that the charity always gets the same amount regardless of changes in the tax rates. As with Gift Aid, higher-rate taxpayers can reclaim the additional higher-rate tax relief through the tax office.

SUSAN EMMETT

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+750.9

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+0.6

+267.5

+418.3

LAUNCH

25.1.83

8.4.85

21.4.84

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Emerging Compunies

American Growth

For Eastern Growth

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European Growth

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Latin American Growth

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SINCE LAUNCH

POSITION

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5 out of 6

I out of 26

8 out of 68

21 out of 27

CHANGE

+100,2

+135.9

+126.2

+63 B

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Templeton heads for Russia with optimism

Timing is everything in invest-ment management, and Dr Mark Mobius. Templeton's leading emerging market guru. must have some doubts about his timing in the launch of the company's new Eastern European invest-

The recent catastrophic falls in stock prices in Thailand, Indonesia. Malaysia and now South Korea have implications for all emerging economies. After all, these Far Eastern countries were deemed to be examples of the economic miracle.

Within them workers toiled for far less than their Western counterparts, while enjoying a feeling of growing domestic wealth. Over the past year, this image has taken a big knock. Thailand is more than per cent down, while other markets such as Malaysia and Indonesia are 60 per cent lower.

Dr Mobius will have a difficult job in tempting investors to part with their cash to put into the new fund which will buy the shares of companies in the former Eastern

After all, if the reasonably politically stable countries such as Malaysia and Indonesia can suffer such dramatic falls, then what of the more esoteric markets of Kyrgyzstan, Azerbaijan and

A new East European investment trust has had doubts expressed at its timing, says Caroline Merrell

with stock market collapses of immense proportions. Dr Mobius is optimistic. He sees the falls as a "buying opportunity". He believes that Templeton, which has a stockpicking approach, will still be able to find value in companies in these emerging markets, where industries such as mining and oilfield

However, he does believe that globally, international markets will not rise very much next year. because of turmoil in the East.

production dominate

Or Mobius said: Ten years ago anyone who predicted that Eastern Europe would be a hot new emerging market would have been dismissed as insane. But following the fall of communism and the initial shock therapy of market reforms, many of the countries in the region have moved on to a

This has been accompanied by increasing integration with the West - more than 70 per cent of Hungary's trade is with OECD countries, 65 per cent of Poland's trade is with the European Union

and the Czech Republic's biggest trading partner is Germany.

The region's stock markets are also booming as a result of the privatisation drive which has led to a huge increase in the number of listed companies," he claims.

However, financial advisers have doubts about the trust. BESt Investment, while acknowledging Dr Mobius's undoubted track record in producing results in emerging markets, believes that the sheer geographical area that the fund's analysts have to cover may hinder its progress.

t pointed out that the manager had only two analysts looking at 27 countries. Only when the analysts had done their work would Dr Mobius move in for a company visit.

BESt Investment also believes that there are other similar funds on the market, such as Barings Emerging Europe Fund, which is currently operating at a big discount. Dr Mobius said that the difficulty in finding the right stock



would mean that the fund was like y to hold cash for some time.

Mark Dampier, Churchill Investments director, said: "I will not be offering the Eastern Europe fund. Many of the countries of Eastern Europe have done very well over the last year. For instance, Russia is up over 150 per cent on the year. It is bound to be an extremely happened in the Far East. Anyone who does want to invest should take a very long-term view - five years at least."

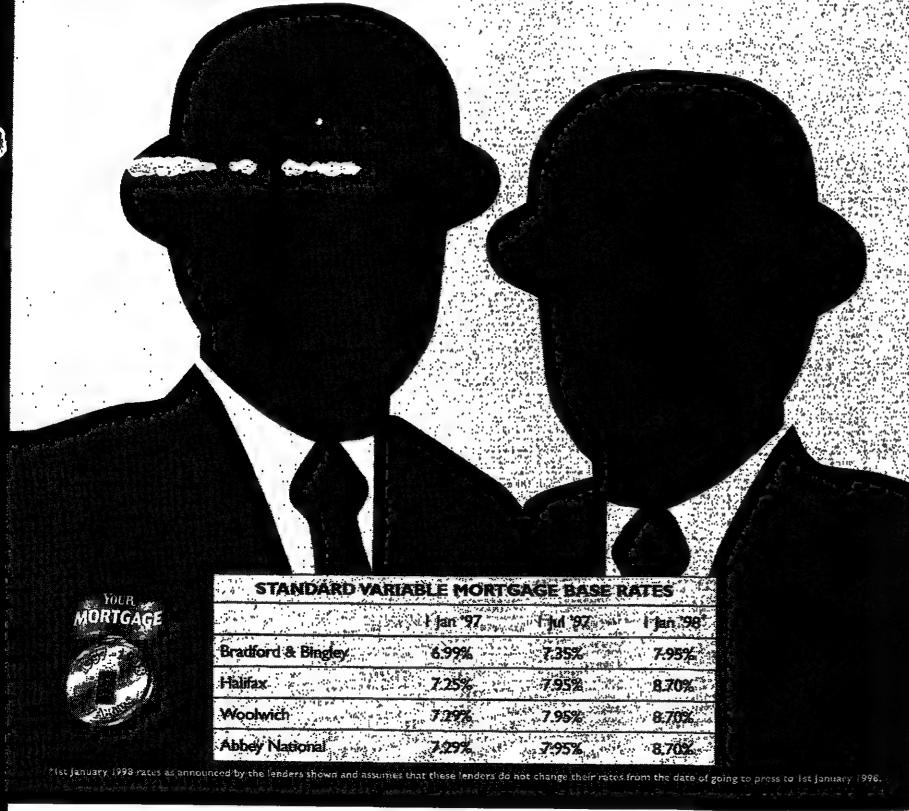
He added: "I would not knock Templeton, it is an extremely good investment house. You can get access to this market through other funds such as the Barings Emerging Market Fund, which is currently standing at a big discount. There is also extremely big political risk in these areas. Who really understands what is happening?

The initial charge on the fund is 5 per cent and the annual manage-ment charge is 1.75 per cent. The minimum investment is £60 per month or a £3,000 lump sum.



The old and the new: Marina Siumona, who has a Moscow beauty salon, with a reminder of the old days

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Halifax leads way with new year rise in rates for savers

The Halifax will be increasing its interest rates for its 15 million savers in the new year. The announcement was made after the Bank of England revealed on Thursday that it will be holding rates at 7.25 per cent. It follows a flurry of rate rises by many of the leading banks and building societies this week.

Gren Folwell, deputy chief executive, said: "Following Thursday's meeting it now makes sense to pass on the benefits of the increased rates to our 15 million savers as well as confirming the new standard variable mortgage rate for our bor-

rowers. Among the building soci-eties to announce rises the Portman. It will be raising its savings

cutting the minimum initial deposit for its savings account from £1,000 to £100.

The Portman announced a 0.25 percentage point increase on its instant access account to 5.5 per cent and the same rise in its fixed-interest bond to 7.5 per cent. The increase takes effect on Monday. Nationwide, the UK's big-

gest building society, reduced its minimum opening level to £1 last month on the condition that investors agree to hand over any future windfall gains to charity. It also increased its rates to 6.7 per cent a year. Sainsbury and Tesco, which offer similar postal accounts, pay 6.5 per cent. The Woolwich will also

raise the rates of interest on several acrounts next week after this week's rises in its postal rates. Monday's rise will include the Woolwich Card Saver Account, which will pay 7 per cent gross on balances of more than £50.

The Woolwich was one of many to raise savings rates in response to the recent increase. in base rates. The Bank of England raised rates by 0.25 points to 7.25 per cent at the start of November. A spokesman for the Woolwich said:

"We don't always put rates up straightaway. We do it when the market conditions are right to keep ourselves

Abbey National was the first leading bank to announce rises in its savings rates. Its Investor 90 account began to pay 0.25 points more

Most building have not announced acrossthe-board increases but have chosen to raise rates on select ed accounts. However, last week saw the most movement in interest rate rises as Lloyds. NatWest, Barclays, Birmingham Midshires, Northern

Rock and TSB

all put up their

0.15 points, ac-

cording to

Moneyfacts,

90-Day Notice Account had

rates.

Most building societies are lifting interest levels — but on selected accounts only

> balances of £100,000. TSB Tessa, meanwhile, went up to 7.3 per cent from 7.2 per cent. Bardays increased rates on

> a number of accounts, but the biggest rise was the one-year fixed Tessa, which increased 0.4 points to 7.25 per cent. Larger amounts with

Northern Rock will benefit from a 0.1 point increase in Select Instant accounts.

Children saving with Birmingham Midshires received a 0.5 point rise in their Smartstart accounts, which pay 7.25 per cent for savings of more than £25, and 7.5 per cent on investments of more than £500. While the Birmingham

Midshires children's account has been selected Moneyfacts as one of the best on the market, the building society has been accused by Which?, the Consumers' Association magazine, of offering its customers unfair deals.

This week Which? says that customers of the Birmingham Midshires are suffering from high mortgage rates and low savings rates and could be disappointed with their windfalls.

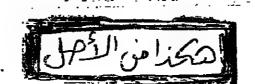
Susan Emmett

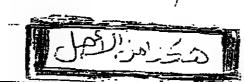
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Policy Choice 4 Direct

the financial people who let you choose Our Unique Service is FREE

- Our FREE GUIDE gives you the facts
- Our FREE listings let you compare the rates of the
- top companies We arrange your policy





Susan Emmett on how to give girl power and boy power

What they really, really Want this Christmas

orget oranges and jigsaws, what kids want, what they really, really want this countries. really want this Christmas is a Spice Girls doll. Be it Scary, Ginger, Baby. Posh or Sporty, miniature versions of the fab five have been snapped up since going on sale on

But with their latest single. Spice up your Life. at number one for just a week and labelled "worst song" by Smash Hirs last Sunday, it looks as if

the Spices are losing their flavour. Clued-up parents wanting to give their daughters real "girl power" (or their sons whatever the male equivalent might be) should consider something less ephemeral and think of cash as an alternative. After all, how else is your emancipated 18-year-old going to fund that backpacking trip round

There are several ways of giving your children money. The strategy will depend on the child's age and the depth of your pockets. The options include accounts with building societies, National Savings, friendly societies and unit and investment trusts.

Dani Glover, a financial adviser at

Fiona Price and Partners, says: "The choice depends on what the donor wants the money to do. People should buy the investment that suits. With very small children the risk of unit trusts and investment trusts is reduced. The older they are, the more cautious you have got to be in case an 18-year-old's birthday coincides with a stock market crash."

Since children, like adults, are entitled to a personal tax allowance of £4,045, most children have tax-free savings. Children can reclaim the tax on their savings if their total taxable income is under this limit. But children under 16 years of age cannot apply themselves for a tax rebate. Parents or guardians must complete an R85 form on behalf of the child so that they can have the gross income.

However, parents wanting to invest for their children should note the £100 rule, where any income of more than £100 a year gained on money paid by parents is taxed as their income. This is roughly the equivalent of £1,600 paid into an average building society account. Money given by friends or other members of the family is exempt from this rule.

For the cost of a plastic "Spice" (£24.99), parents can invest in National Savings Children's Bonds. The bonds



If you can't have Ginger Spice, or a doll, a bank account is the next best thing

are sold in units of £25, with a maximum holding of £1,000. Anyone over 16 years old can buy a bond for anyone under the age of 16. And because they pay a fixed rate of 6.75 per cent if held for five years, these bonds are probably the most secure

However, with interest rates on the rise, children may be better off with a bank or building society account. Competition on the high street has

7.00%

7.90%

7.25%

7.25% 8.75%

made banks and building societies take a second look at what they offer kids, and rates for children's accounts have grown to adult sizes.

Top of the charts for a saving of £25, according to Moneyfacts, is Birmingham Midshires with a rate of 7.25 per cent. The building society offers a higher rate of 7.5 per cent for deposits of £500.

Vicki Burn, deputy editor of Moneyfacts, said: "During the past

made their children's accounts more competitive. In recent years the best rates tended to be offered by the smaller building societies. However, several high street institutions now have very competitive rates - in one case (Nationwide) the rate has more than doubled since this time last year."

Savings with friendly societies are also attractive with those giving away small amounts. Up to £25 a month can be saved in a bond account. Policies last for a minimum of ten years and mature when the child reaches the age of 18. This option has the advantage of being low-risk and tax-free, but because the charges are fixed they can

weigh heavily on small savings.

Parents of young children with £1,000 to £100,000 to invest could consider putting the money into unit trusts - an equity-based investment spread across a number of shares.

John Spiers, chairman of BESt investment, believes that by their nature unit trusts lend themselves to children's investments. "Usually when you are investing for children, you are looking for growth over the long term," he said. "So an equity-based

investment is a good idea. Unit trusts are bought under the parents' name with the child's initials attached unless the investment is wrapped in a bare trust. The advantages of this trust comes into play only if the parent makes the gift. With a bare trust the income gained counts as part of the child's personal allowance. not the parents'. Gifts from other members of the family are taxed as the child's anyway.

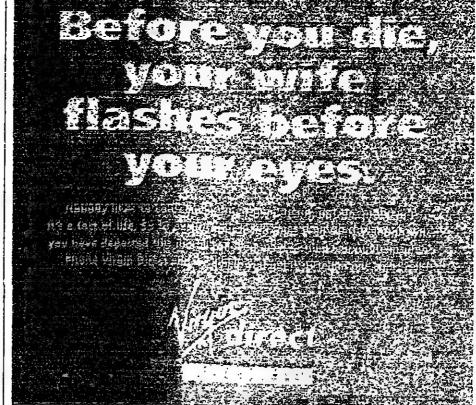
Placing an investment in a bare trust costs between £75 and £100, and some financial advisers say that it is worth it only for investments of more than £5,000. However, there are some unit trusts which come with a bare trust attached at no extra cost.

Invesco runs a unit trust specifically designed for children. The Rupert Children's Fund invests a minimum of 70 per cent in the FTSE 100 and can be opened with just £50 or by monthly payments of £20. It has an initial charge of 3 per cent and a 1.5 per cent annual management fee.

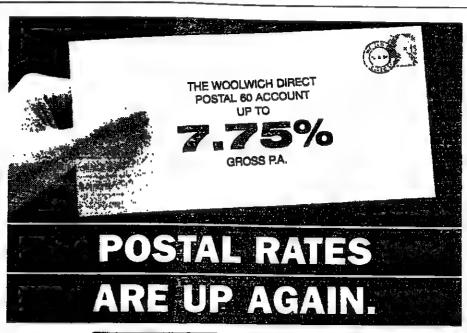
But Mr Spiers advises investing in unit trusts which diversify internation-

Next week - tax-efficient gifts for

and the se	THUY VEIL DREN	avieni.	
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Baverley 85 01/482/681510	Yearng Slavers	- French	6.75%
Cambridge BS 01223 315440	First	21	7.35%
Choday & District 88 77(257 279373	Young Chodelan	10 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	6.76%
Earl Shifton BS 01455 844422	Early Saver	21 .	7.00%
Findess 88 D1229 824560	Young Savers	£500	7.25%
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0500 225777	Youngsever	£1,000	6.80%
Melton Mowbray BS (30 day) 01664 63937	Sunny Bood	£150 - T	7.50% ·
Tipton & Coseley BS	Cash Zone	£10	7.25%



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RATES EFFECTIVE FROM 21 NOVEMBER 1997	GROSS PAID ANNUALLY
£100.000+	7,75
£50,000 · £99,399	7.55
£25,000 · £49,999	7.35
£10,000 · £24,999	7.15
£5,000 · £9,999	6.95
£2,500 · £4.999	6 75

For once, there's some good news in the post. The Interest rates on the Woolwich Direct Postal 60 Account

have been increased, making them even more impressive. Operating your account by post means we can offer you higher rates on a minimum investment of £2,500. What's more, you can make one no-penalty, instant withdrawal a year. For a higher interest rate from the Woolwich, direct to your door, call us free now quoting ref: TP612.

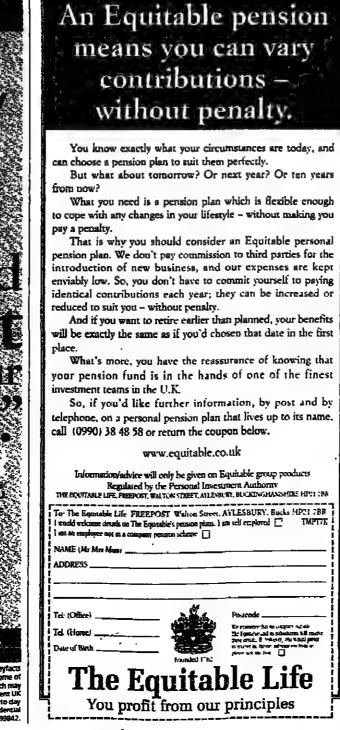
Get much more with

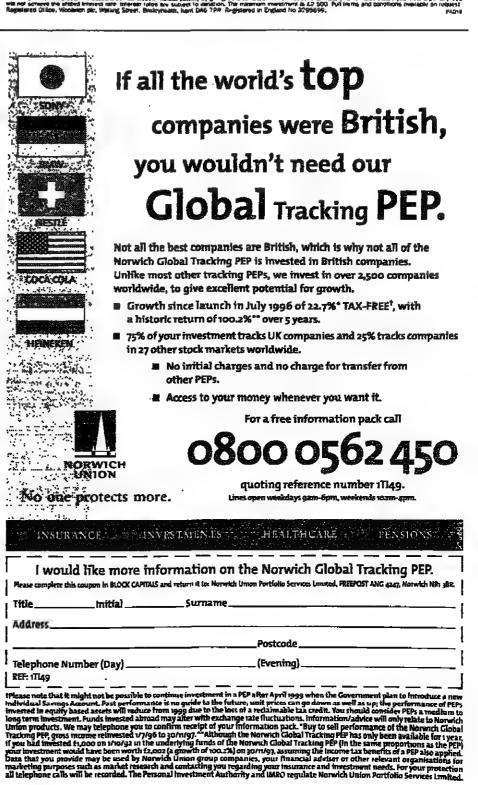
WOOLWICH

0800 60 60 40

12,800- 6 55%, 15,000- 6 74%, 110,000+ 6,93%, 126,000- 7 11%, 180,000- 7 30%, 1100,000- 7 49%, Bauman belon







grick court

WHAT IS AN

THE TIMES MONEY INFORMATION SERVICE

Pet plans can be a dog's breakfast

mined by where you live, while your pet's insur-ance policy might be more trouble than it is worth, according to a survey out this week. The most expensive vets NEARLY three in four can charge up to five times as much as the cheapest for the same treatments, says Which? the Consumers' Association magazine.

The survey also revealed that many people find choos-ing the right insurance policy confusing. Many insurers will not take on older animals or they reduce the cover when a pet reaches a certain age. In some cases you may not be able to claim for particular diseases or conditions for certain types of animal.

RECEIVING retail vouchers as a Christmas bonus from employers may become a thing of the past. According to the Contributions Agency. vouchers appeal to "rogue employers" who deliberately give their staff vouchers in order to avoid paying national insurance.

Receiving retail vouchers instead of cash can mean that staff stay below the lower earnings limit for national insurance and as a result may

he amount you spend at the vet can be deterjobsecker's allowance and income support. From April 1999 retail vouchers will no longer escape this liability.

> people believe that the leading high street banks should keep rural branches open, even if they are unprofitable, according to a new survey.

The survey, which was carried out by Omnimas, the market research organisation, also showed that most people think rural post offices are important and should be supported.

In the past seven years, more than 2,600 branches of the leading banks have been closed, many in rural areas. according to the British Bank-

YOUR toddler may want a teddy for Christmas but the Tunbridge Wells Equitable Society suggests that a baby hond could help to fund a university education. A baby bond is a tax-efficient with-profits endowment policy on the life of the child. For more information contact the society on 01892 515353.

FIXED RATE

SAVERS BEST BUYS					
INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	inturést paid
Woolwich 0800 222200 C&G 0800742437 Legal & General 0500 111200 Altiance & Leic 0845 608 8860	Card Saver Inst Transfer Direct Access First Cls Inst	Instant InstantB Postal Postal	£50 £1,000 £2,500 £10,000	7.00 7.25 7.15 7.50	Yly Yly Yly Yly
NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Bristol & West 0800 202121 Northern Rock 0500 505000 Bristol & West 0800 202121 Investec (UK) 0171 203 1650	Postal 30 Select 90 Fix for Six Base Plus	30 day p 90 day p 6 month 1 year	£10,000 £10,000 £5,000 £2,001	7.80 7.90 7.75 8.00	Yly Yly OM OM
FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01438 744505 Investec Bank (UK) 0171 203 1650 Mansfield BS 01246 202055 Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Premier+feeder Premier+feeder Premier+feeder Premier+feeder	5 year 5 year 5 year 5 year	£3,000 £9,000 £500 £2,000	7.85 7.85 7.75 7.65	Yly Yly Yly Yly

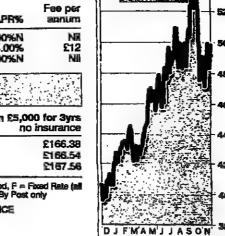
Yorkshire BS 0800 378836	Premier+feeder 5 y	year 52	,000 7.6	5
VISA C	REDIT CARDS BE	ST BUYS		
CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee
Capital One Bank 0800 669000 Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 82910	VIsa 0 MasterCard/Visa	0.64%N 1.00%	7.90%N 14.00%	

WITASI ITAGE A129	O'DANIAO	r.ouzer mi
ONAL LOANS	BEST BUYS	
. APR	Monthly payment with insurance	on £5,000 for 3yrs no insurance
12.80%A	£183.75	£166.38
12,90%	£189.48	£166.54
13.30%	£187.73	2167.56
	APR 12.80%A 12.90%	APR Monthly payment with insurance 12.80%A £183.75 £189.48

NB. A = Minimum age 22 years, B = Withdrawals via Bank Clearing System, C = no interest free period, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable). N = introductory rate for a limited period, <math>OM = Interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE PLEASE CHECK RATES BEFORE INVESTING

SUSAN EMMETT Source: Alleria Facts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Montgage Rates (01692 500 677)

PIBS



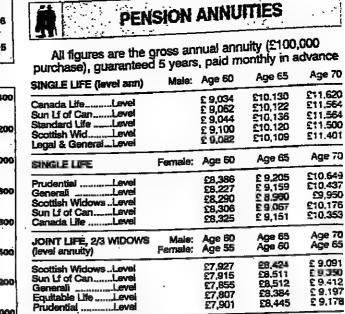
LARGER LENDERS

BASE RATES V MORTGAGES

91 92 93 94 95 96 97

PRICE INDEX

NATIONAL SAVINGS العناسة 2545 645**30**0 £10-£10k** £1-£499*** Imiti £2k-£25k** 3miti Ordinary A/c⁴ 1.50 1.20 0.90 investment A/c⁴ 4.75 3.80 2.85 DE45 645000 Investment AVC 4 175 5.20 3.90 Income Bond* 6.50 5.20 3.90 First Opt Bonds 6.75 5.40 4.05 0645 645000 0645 645000 £1k-£20k** £100-£10k 8day 0645 645000 44th Issue Centra 5.35 Children's Bondt 6.75 £25-£1k ?mth 0645 645300 Capital Bonds 6 6.65 5.32 3.99 \$100-£250k \$0.39 \$645 565000 \$11th Indeedts 2.75 Pensars Bond S3 • 7.00 5.60 4.20 * Test E70 (E140 pt) of int text free instruction for up to £102* or in text according to the representation of the free "Rates gross and the description of the rest according to £20,000 pt accordin



Source: Armsty Direct (0171 684 5000) Statistics compiled by Jacqui Spray

FIRST-TIME BUYERS

	GUARANTEED	INCOME BOND	S
_			

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at June 19, 1997

	investment (2)	Company	Standard Rate (%)
1 Year			
	5.000	AIG Life	6.38
	10,000	GE Fin Assur	6.75
	20.000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
2 Years			
	1.000	Hambro Assured	6.10
	10.000	Hambro Assured	6.80
	20,000	Hambro Assured	5.80
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.80
3 Years	22,000		
	1,000	Hambro Assured	5.90
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	6.30
	20.000	Hambro Assured	8.65
	50,000	Hambro Assured	6.70
4 Years			
	1.000	Hambro Assured	5.06
	3,000	ITT London & Ed	B.15
5 Years			
	1.000	Hambro Assured	6.00
	10,000	Hambro Assured	6.55

Birmingham Midshire	s 9.380%	121.00	7.750	100.17	1.00
Bradford & Bingley	11.630%	150.50	7.720	100.13	10,00
Bradford & Bingley	13.000%	168.25	7,730	100.20	10,00
Britannia	13.000%	168.25	7.730	100.42	1.00
Coventry	12.130%	155.75	7.780	100.75	1,00
First National	11.750%	151.75	7.740	100.25	10.00
Leeda & Holbeck	13,380%	173.00	7,730	100.23	1.00
Newcastle	10.750%	141.75	7.580	100.32	1.00
Newcastle	12,630%	166.25	7,590	100.45	1,00
Skipton	12.780%	170.75	7.540	100.48	1,00
Northern Rock	12.630%	163.50	7.720	100.14	1,00
PERPETUAL SU	ORDINA	TED BO	NDS		
Chelt & Gloucester	11.750%	156.00	7.530	100,9B	50,00
Halliex	8.750%	113.75	7.690	100.62	50,00
Halifax	12.000%	149.50	8.030	100.28	50,00
Halifax	13.630%	180.75	7.540	100.00	50,00
Brestol & West	13.380%	171.50	7.800	100.34	1,00

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95- POSS	ible sali	E OF HAI	KBROS B	ANK [₋ 28
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Lunder	interest rate %	Loan	Max %	Notas
Building Societies Chelses 0800 291291	5.39	E20-150k	80	Fixed to 1.2.00
Nationwide 0800 302010	5.75	to £300k	90	2.05% disc for 2 years
Britainnia 0800 526350	5,74	no max	80	Fixed for 2 ym
Benks Bank of Insland 01189 510100	0.99	\$20-145k	. 95	Fixed for 6 miths 3% disc-6 miths
Brietol & West 0117 979 2222	2.90	£15-no max	90	Fixed to 1.11.96
	# . J			7
%	_ LA	RGER I	.ÓAI	vis .
% Lender	Interest	RGER I	OAI	VS Notes
Bullding Secieties Scarborough		Loan	Mex	Notes 7.24% dec-8 mir 2%-6mth,0.5%-1
Lender. Building Secieties Scarborough Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220	rate %	Loan size	Mex %	7.24% dao-8 mtr
Bullding Societies Scarborough 0990 133149 Nottingham Imper.	min %	Loan size E15-100k	Mex %	7.24% dao-8 mir 2%-6mth,0.5%-1 Pixed at 0.75%
Building Societies Scarborough 0890 133149 Nottingham Imper. 0115 9817220 Leeds & Holbeck	0.99 0.75	Loan size £15-100k £25-150k	Mex % 95 76	7.24% dac-8 mir 2%-6mth,0.5%-1 Fixed at 0.75% to 31.1.98 7% dec-8 mths,

ender	Interest rate %	Loan size	Max %	Notes
Building Societi	06			_
Newbury	4.85	£30-100k	95	3% discount for
11535 43676				1 year
/snsfield	2.20	£25-250k	90	6%dsc-6mth.1.49% -6mth 0.99%-1 yr
1246 202055	- 05	045 4004	95	3% discount for
Diay Cross 11246 862120	5.25	£15-100k	80	1 year
				i year
Sanks				
Sank of Ireland	0.99	£20-145k	95	Fixed for 6 mths 3% disc-6 mths
1189 510100		4- 040EL	95	Fixed to 31.1.00
Abbey National 1800 555100	6.05	to £125k	80	Pated to 31.1.00
900 333100				
arger lenders, losns s	end first-time (buyans tables by	Stay's G.	edes (Uz. 131752 680482)

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UNIT-LINKED INSURANCE INVESTMENTS

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	BIJ	Oller	White	tid *.		Bld	Offer	%Lly -/-	11d
LEGON LIFE	ANNL R	NCE			UK Opportunits	300.10	317.50	- 9.00	
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iono niemarkonal	28170 445.00	100.00	- 0.30	::: '	Cult	178.33 387.40	1 NS 40	+ 0.30 + 400	0.44
					Formariy LAS		42.30		
OBEY LIFE					Managed Fund UK Equity	40, 40 49, 20	내면 70	+17.30	•::
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Median 54 Union 54	178.60	230.20 188 40 232.40 137 70	• 7.50 DUG		Japan North America	26.00	2731,33	 bail0 	
memallonal \$4	17840 220.70	22.40	- 400		international	HI.70	464.00	- 6 IO	
Tourand Gift 34 Nam Phallic	102.10	170.70	- 1,00	•••	European Par Esri	397.10 139.50	136.40	0.20	
DEPOSITE THE	264.60	274 eU	+ 8.50						
rup FG Ser 4 subity Ser 4 dan Ser 4 one ser 4 doney Ser 4	71274	229.30	- 830 - 630 - 630 - 1530	•••	CANADA LIFE				
dan Ser 4 Tons Ser 4	(III,66),	404 16			20 High Street, 01707 Still	Policin	Bary tte	m EVe	NP.
foney Ser 4	308.00	.885.00	• n 40		Marayard	138.60	401 70	+ 9,60	
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quity Act Toperty Act ar East Act	1927.90	444.00 2029 40	-0230		INVESTMENTS				
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iner Man Acc iner Prop Acc	56u.70 11b.70	122,90	-1440		Gilt & Fixed Ini	256,90	270.50	- 040	•••
distribution Bond	27 40	24-40	- 300 -1120 -1440 - 140 - 040		Indexed Secs Cosh	210,00	221.10	• 0.10	:
XA EQUITY (LAW				Nth American Far East	377 40	270.50 215.30 221.10 397.30 239.30 304.30 543.60	- [1,90	•••
IXA EQUITA IASUMANCE IMPERSIMAN ROSS	l Wish	W	David	_	For East Interpolional Special Sits Intlintyme	26010	304.30	- 8.60	•••
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urope Ser e	577.20 716.00	753.60	-23.50 -24.90		Property Gilt & Fired in Index United	241.30	254 (0	- 070	
roperty Ser a	642.41	070.40	- 0.50		Index Unkid	22190	232.60 307.40 489.50 255.00	- 0.10	:::
nd-Lakd Sec sh	321 4U	233.00	• 1.10	:	Nih American Far East Act	465.00	189 50	• 0.10 • 6.80	
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Jiji Edged Att	192.40	518.10	- 2 %		Colonial Mutual New ME4 (TV.)	House,	Chatha	o Mari	Line.
dr- Initiai Memational Acc	395 40 471.50	3/1 (00 4Pb-40	- 140 -1210		(Units) Key i	263 45	u (100)		
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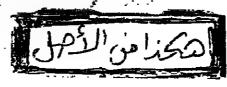
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Manayed 51 Adventurous 51	313.00 329.00 242.90 259.00	• 1.40	PR2 2PR 01772 Managed	22160 23060	• 3.80 • 6.30
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ingres Equin	371.20 (A030) 241.60 251.60	4.30	Capital Fund Income Fund	1184 40 1115.00	-23.90 -37.80 4.70
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Minaged Deposit	951.10 1001.10 Secon 00340	-27.30	Equity Fund	844.10 898.60 698.20 50.00	•29.40
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Flued Inti- Index-Linked Losa Deposit Property International American Japan Japan Smilt Cos European Pacific Fund Corry Life Furmerty Pruvider Managed Ord Managed Initial	273 20 297 50 175 00 195.20 186.10 199.50 261.20 274.90 216.70 227.30 175.50 184.60 175.50 184.60 389.20 410.10	* 5.40 1.40 2.03 * 9.40 * 9.40 * 1.40 * 1.7.40 * 10.70	2 Montefiore Ra 01273 824000 B Soc Luisd Init -do- Act Brit Opps Int -do- Act Cash Initial -do- Act Equity Initial -do- Act Fixed Initial	134.80 141.90 202.10 212.80 199.80 210.40 271.40 285.30 172.40 181.70 325.10 342.70 926.60 475.40	• 0.20 • 5.00 • 7.40 • 8.50
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Flace Inti- index-Linke's Loan Deposit Property International American Japan Smilir Cos European Pacific Fund Corn Life Formerty Provider Managed Ord Managed initial Equity Ord Equity Inti- I-United Gift Inti Cosas Equity Ord Oseas Equity (Inti- Property Ord Property Inti- Property Ord Property Inti-	277.30 227.30 176.00 195.00 251.30 27.484 251.20 27.484 251.20 27.484 175.50 184.00 175.50 184.00 180.40 670.00 180.40 145.00 180.40 145.00 180.40 145.00 180.40 145.00 185.00 181.00 185.00 185.00 185.00 185.00 18	- 5,40 7,10 1,40 2,00 9,40 9,40 1,40 1,740 1,740 1,750 1,10 .	2 Montefiore R 01273 824000 B Soc Links Inni do- 4ct Brit Opps Int do- 4ct Cash inidal do- 4ct Equity initial do- 4ct Fitted initial do- act Index-Links Gill do- 4ct Links Gill do- 4ct Managed Initial do- 4ct Managed Initial do- 4ct Managed Initial do- 4ct	and. Home, Susset 134.80 144.50; 202.16 312.80 199.80 210.40 771.40 225.70 772.40 181.70 782.50 782.50 782.50 782.50 782.50 782.50 782.50 782.50 782.50 784.80 151.00 159.00 150.50 358.40 367.60 518.60 587.60 618.60 587.60 618.60 105.90 618.60	** BNG ISE *** 0.20 *** 0.50 *
Flact Int index-Linke's Cash Deposit Property International American Japan Smill Cos European Pocific Fund Corr Life Formerty Provider Managed Ord Managed India Equity Ord Equity Ord Core Equity Ord Cos Equity Ord Cos Equity Ord Property Ord Property Ord Property Ord Property Intil Illand Int Ord	277.30 237.30 179.70 195.30 179.70 195.30 251.30 271.40 251.30 271.40 1775.50 184.60 1775.50 184.60 184.60 1	5 710 17	2 Montefiore Ra 01273 824000 B Soc Luisd Init -do- Act Brit Opps Int -do- Act Cash Initial -do- Act Equity Initial -do- Act Fixed Initial	and. Home, Susset 134.80 141.80 202.10 210.40 271.40 210.40 271.40 225.70 172.40 181.70 255.10 322.70 425.60 475.40 1745.50 1877.40 262.60 255.40 151.00 159.00 150.00 159.00	** BNG ISE *** 0.20 *** 0.50 *
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-	frimmational Pi	386.60		+ 12 HZ		PRIJUSNIJAL				
-	LONDON & N	ANCH	ESTER	ASSATE	11456	Hollows Barn, DLIS9 578334	lender.	ecin d	VH.	
١	in Trust Cap ! -do- Acc !	619.80 1186.10		+ 7.40 HEAD		Manageri	46.90	465.40	• 5.70	٠
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١	-do- Act i Fud Inserest Cup i -do- Act i Equity Cup i -do- Act i	31140		- 3.50 - 0.90 - 2.00	111	Stephes Street 017 548 3278	. Loude	WIP?	AP	
١	Equity Cap :	416.00 780.00	:::	+11.40 +21.90		Managed Fund Equity Fund	2335.80	1105.20 2439.80	+25.40 +61.20	:::
1	litiemuti Cira i	343.10		• 3.80 • 7.20		inti Pond Fixed Intertal	751.70 643.90	791.30 730.50	+22.j0	
1	ds- Are ! Gid Deposit Cap ! ds- Ace!	199,20 290,90		- 0.20	7.20	Property Fund Cash Fund	541.70 410.80	570.30 432.50	+ 0.70	:::
1	Flexible Cap :	405.60 757.50		• 7.80 •15.20	:::	Pacific Basin N American Pa	256.70 457.30	280.80 451.40	• 5.90 • 10.70	:::
	Moneymaker Fd (Capital Growth)	574.90 2533.10	:::	+10.00 00.63+		Euro Fund Balanced Fund	433.30 208.00	219.00	+16.90 + 5.80	:::
١.	Mag					Strategic Fund	233,70	246,00	- 6.50	٠
	Vicarrin (Gant, (04.345 266266 Amer Bond Acc			# CALI 2040		DOMES LOS	PAPE -		m / m	up-
1	Arner Bond Act Arner Rec Bond Arn Smir Cos Bd	814.10 330 90	701,20 855,00	• 7.50		PEZ 6GG, 67733	17/6E 1	Pers, In	SUKA.	-
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ı	Deposit Band Acc Equity Bond Acc European Bri Acc	406-20	42540 2137.30	• 0.40 • 0.290		Op Prop Cro Equity	566 30	CN AGP	- 0.10	
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Ì	Gilt Bond Act	351.10	579.30 107.10	1.70		Op Deposit	441.40 117.80	124,00	+ 0.40 + 2.30	:::
١	High Yield Bond Index-Lak Gt Bd	246.30	25a.70	- 0.80	:::	Managed Gü British	354.90 548.10	373.60 578.90	+ 3.80	:::
١	International Bd Japan Bond Acc	154.30	162 10	- 2 90		Global Bond Gold Share	122.40 61.80	65.00	- 0.40 - 3.00	
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ł	Prop Bond Act Rec Bond Act 5 East Asia Bd Act	1069.20	583.30 1122.70	+ 1.20 +34.30		Mingd Growth	615.90	648.30	+ 7,10	•••
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- 1	MGM ASSURA	NO				Non Holl Disco	1	1481 لمہ	uu s	
	MGM ASSIJE/ MGM House, I ISNII IDV, QNIII	LEGGE P	oed, We	rting		New Hall Place 0151 239 3000	Liverp	ooi L693	HIS.	
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	MGM House. F BNI 11PV. GMB L'K Equity Acc Special Sits Special Sits Special Sits North American N American Acc	315,30 494,00 131 (0 205 40 242,70	331.90 520.00 138.00 216.30 283.90	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 3.50 + 5.70 + 6.70		New Hall Place 0[5] 239 3000 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund	niced 515.00	nei [.693	+11.70	
	MGM House F ENIT 1177, GMB CK Equity Acc Special Sits Acc North American N American Acc Pacific Basin Pacific Basin Acc	315.30 494.00 131 10 205.40 269.70 422.70 274.00	331.90 520.00 138.00 216.30 283.90 445.00 289.10	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 3.50 + 5.70 + 6.70 + 11.60 + 5.90		New Hall Place 0151 239 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund SAVB & PROS B-21 Western N BMI M.R. What Ball in Fund	niced 515.00	942.00 942.00 942.00	+11.70 Easex - 1.10	
	MIGIN House I- ENIT LITY, ONE L'K Equity Acr Special Sits Acr North American N American Acr Pacific Basin Pacific Basin Fixed Interest Fixed Interest Fixed Interest Acc Property	315.30 494.00 131 10 205.40 269.70 422.70 274.00 501.80	331,40 530,00 138,00 216,30 283,90 445,00 289,10 453,00 336,70 528,30	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 13.70 + 5.70 + 11.60 + 1.50 + 1.50 + 1.50		New Hall Place 0151 239 3000 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund SAVIS & PROS 8-21 Western IN INSTITUTE UNITED THE	PER 99.40	942.00 105.20 453.40 688.00	+11.70 Ensex + 1.10	22
	MIGNY House, I IRN'I I IDY, GNUI UK Equity Act Special Sits Special Sits Acc North American N American Act Pacific Basin Pacific Basin Pacific Basin Fibed Interest Fibed Interest Fibed Interest Property Act Deposit	315.30 494.00 131 10 205.40 269.70 422.70 274.00 430.30 319.00 501.80 194.00	331,90 520,00 138,00 216,30 445,00 453,00 453,00 336,70 528,30 204,40	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 3.50 + 5.70 + 11.00 + 5.90 + 1.90 + 1.90 + 2.70		New Hall Place 051 293 3000 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund SAVE & PROS B-21 Western R Ball Inv Fund Demoit Rand Co	PER 99.40	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.40 684.00 292.00	+11.70 Easex - 1.10 - 2.60	2.36
	MIGNY House, I IRAN'I IDP', GHUI UK Equity Acr Special Sits Special Sits Acc North American Acr Pacific Basin Acr Facific Basin Acr Flood Interest Flood Interest Flood Sits Property Acz Deposit Deposit Deposit Managed	leesse R 20637 315,30 131 10 205,40 205,70 422,70 474,50 474,50 104,10 104,50 1	331,90 520,00 138,00 216,00 281,90 453,00 453,00 524,30 52	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 3.50 + 5.70 + 11.60 + 1.50 + 1.50 + 1.50 + 2.70 + 4.20 + 0.10 + 7.40		New Hall Pince 065 239 300 Royal Life Unit II Managed Fund SAVIL & FROM 18-21 Western R RMI SLE, 1970 Bel Inv Fund Deposit Fund Q Glift Fund Global Equity Fd Property Fand ty AG Bond Fund SCOTTLISH AN	Allen S15,000 FEE A Run S15,00	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.40 684.00 139.20 168.00	+11.70 Emex - 1.10 - 2.60 - 5.30	2.36
	MGN House, I Rolf I IDV, GHE UK Equity Act Special 5th Acc North American N American Act Pacific Basin Pacific Bas	135.00 195.00 194.00 191.10 205.10 205.10 205.10 205.10 205.10 190.10 190.10 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50 194.50	331,90 520,00 1383,90 283,90 4453,00 356,70 326,30 320,40 320,40 320,40 164,70 254,30 497,60	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 15.70 + 11.00 + 11.00 + 1.50 + 1.5		New Hall Pince 063 239 300 Royal Life Unit II Managed Fund SAVE & PROS 8-21 Western R RMI SLE, 1970 Bel Iny Fund Deposit Fund Q Gibbal Equity Fd Property Fund Par Global Equity Fd Property Fund R ROS 2006 Fund SCOTTLEH AR 155 SI Viscosi 3 0441 285 2323	PER 515,000 FER 99,40 426,60 961,20 276,50 131,50 158,70	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.40 680.00 130.20 168.00	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.60 - 5.20 - 1.00	2.36 6.97 7.37 6.77
	MGN House, I Boylt 1177, GMU UK Equity Act Special Sits Acc North American N American Act Pacific Basin Pacific Ba	135.00 195.00 195.00 191.00 205.10 205.10 205.10 205.10 205.00 20	331,90 520,00 1383,90 283,90 4453,00 356,70 326,30 320,40 320,40 320,40 164,70 254,30 497,60	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 15.70 + 11.00 + 11.00 + 1.90 + 1.90 + 2.70 + 4.20 + 0.10 + 7.40 + 10.90		New Hall Piece 065 239 300 Cols 239 300 Cols 239 300 Cols 230 Cols 230 Cols 240 Cols 250 Cols	PER 1515.00 PER 2515.00 PER 25	942.00 105.20 453.40 684.00 179.20 168.00	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.60 - 5.30 + 1.00	2.26
	MGN House, I Boylt IDV, OHM UK Equity Act Special Sits Acc North American N American Act Pacific Basin Pacific Bas	15.30 494.00 131 [0 205-40 209.70 422.70 479.30 501.90 104 [0 304.50 159.04 472.70 NV2STI Humpe	331.90 500.00 118.00 216.30 283.90 393.10 350.70 300.70 300.70 300.40 164.70 477.60 ORRS	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 3.50 + 5.70 + 16.70 + 1.90 + 1.90 + 1.90 + 2.70 + 0.30 + 7.40 + 10.90 + 10.90 + 10.90 + 10.90 + 10.90		New Hall Piece 065 239 300 Cols 239 300 Cols 239 300 Cols 230 Cols 230 Cols 24 Cols 25	PEE 99-40 428-80 9152-70 1152-70 1152-70 1552-	942.00 105.20 453.40 684.00 179.20 168.00	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.60 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.50 - 5.00	2.26.97.37
	MGN House, I Bolt IDV, Gran UK Equity Act Special Sits Acc North American N American Act Pacific Basin Pacific Bas	15.30 494.00 494.00 269.70 269.70 274.00 473.30 319.00 501.60 156.04 472.30 372.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40 472.30 472.40	331.PG 520.00 216.30 283.90 445.00 284.10 356.70 356.70 356.30 366.30 36	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 3.50 + 5.70 + 6.76 + 1.50 +		New Hall Pince 161 279 300 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund SAVE & PROSE 18-21 Western Familia Hay Fund 19 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16	PER A Ban Per A	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.40 453.40 453.40 1968.00 272.60 475.30 247.40 533.20 271.60 275.60 275.60	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.67 - 5.20 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00 - 1.00	2.33
	MGNM House, F BoNT LIDY, GNEE ICK Equity Act Special Sits Acc North American Pacific Basta Act Poster Basta Act Property Act Deposit Act D	15.30 49.00 131 (0 205.40 29.70 422.70 29.70 422.70 29.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10.70 10	331.90 520.00 216.30 283.90 415.00 284.10 305.70 305.70 320.40 320.40 164.70 256.30 477.20 477.20 477.20 477.20 477.20 477.20	+ 8.50 + 13.60 + 13.60 + 5.70 + 14.00 + 15.90 + 15.90 + 15.90 + 2.70 + 2.70 + 0.10 + 0.10 + 10.90 + 10		New Hall Pince 161 279 300 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund SAVE & PROSE 18-21 Western Familia Hay Fund 19 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16 16	FEE 35.00 FEE 35.00 FEE 36.00 FEE 36	942.00 942.00 105.20 451.40 684.00 272.60 1968.00 271.60 473.30 247.40 553.30 363.20 221.40 187.80	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.60 - 1.00 - 1.00	2.23
	MGM House, F. BONT LIDY, GNEE C.K. Equity U.K. Equity Acc Special Sits Acc North American Postille Sale Service From House From Ho	131 101 205 40 295 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	331.70 \$20.00 118.00 218.30 45.00 45.00 45.00 45.00 359.10 45.00 350.20 30.20 344.70 497.50 018.5 1 Lewiss 600.30 746.70 746.70 746.70	+ 8.50 + 13.50 + 5.70 + 6.70 + 11.00 + 1.90 + 2.70 + 2.70 + 2.70 + 0.10 + 0.30 + 7.40 + 10.90 + 10.90	***	New Hall Pince 065 229 300 Royal Life Unit II Managed Fund E-2 Western Park II Managed Fund II Washern Park II Western Park II Western Park II Western Park II Western II Wester	FEE 35.00 FEE 35	942.00 942.00 453.40 453.40 453.40 453.40 1962.00 1962.00 1962.00 1962.00 1962.00 1972.40 1972.40 1972.40 1972.40	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.60 - 1.00 - 1.00	2.22 6.99 7.35 6.77
	MGN House, I MAIN HOUSE, I ENDIT 1177, GINE I'K Equity Act Special Sits Acc North American North American Act Pool Interest Act Pool Interest Act Pool Interest Act Popular Act Deposit Ac	194.00 191.10 205.10 191.10 205.10 191.10 205.10 191.10 205.10 191.10 19	331.70 \$20.00 118.00 218.30 45.00 45.00 45.00 45.00 359.10 45.00 350.20 30.20 344.70 497.50 018.5 1 Lewiss 600.30 746.70 746.70 746.70	+ 8.50 + 13.50 + 5.70 + 11.00 + 1.50 + 1.50 + 2.50 + 1.90 - 2.70 - 4.20 - 0.10 + 1.90 + 7.40 + 10.90 +		New Hall Pince 1051 229 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund SAVE A PROSE TO THE SAVE AND THE SA	158.30 99.40 421.80 99.40 421.80 651.20 774.50 158.70 854.90 495.90 174.	942.00 105.20 453.40 453.40 668.00 179.20 1668.00 272.00 272.00 273.0	+11.70 - 1.10 - 2.60 - 5.30 - 1.00 - 1.50 - 1.50	2.28 6.97 7.33 6.77
	MGN House, Holling III. If Regulty Act Special 5th Acc North American Acr Peaclis Basin Acc Flord University Acc Deposit Acc Minings Acc	1866 R 1873 R 18	331.90 \$20.00 138.00 216.30 283.90 445.00 259.10 453.00 300.40 104.70 300.40 104.70 477.60 477.60 477.60 477.60 580.20 478.10 646.70 746.70 746.70 746.70 747.60	* 8.50 * 13.50 * 5.70 * 11.00 * 11.00 * 1.90 * 1.90		New Hall Pince 161 23 300 Cols 239 300 Royal Life Unit II Managed Fund II Managed Fund II Western F. II Mil Jik. 1970 Bel Inv Pend Deposit Fund (2 Gills Fund Gobal Equity Fund 16 AG Bond Fund II Salving Fund II Salving I	### PEE	962.00 105.20 453.40 453.40 684.00 179.20 166.00 179.20 166.00 179.20 173.30 173.30 173.30 173.30 173.30 173.30 173.30 173.30	+11.70 - 1.10 - 20.70 - 1.90 - 1.90 - 5.00 - 1.90 - 6.00 - 1.90 - 6.00 - 6.00 - 6.00	2.28 6.97 7.33 6.77
	MGN House, Holling Hol	Jackson 101 (101 (101 (101 (101 (101 (101 (101	331.90 530.00 138.00 284.390 445.00 306.70 3	* 8.50 * 13.50 * 5.70 * 6.70 * 11.00 * 12.00 * 1.20 * 0.10 * 0.10 * 0.40 * 11.00 * 11.		New Hall Pince 1051 227 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund Savil & Profit Fund 10 Fu	### DEA 15 15 15 15 15 15 15 1	942.00 942.00 1053.40 654.00 179.20 179.20 177.30 277.40 177.30 277.40 177.30 1	+11.70 -1,100 -240.70 -1.00 -2.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00	2.28 6.99 7.35 6.77
	MGM House, I MAIN HOUSE, I MAI	Julian J. 1530	331,40 520,00 138,00 216,30 283,90 445,00 258,10 455,00 50,70 5	* 8.50 * 13.60 * 15.70 * 6.70 * 11.00 * 12.00 * 1.00 *		New Hall Pince 1051 229 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund 15AVB & PROSE 15AVB & PRO	FEE 15:00 FEE 14:00 FEE 15:00 FEE 16:00 FEE 16	942.00 942.00 1053.40 654.00 179.20 179.20 177.30 277.40 177.30 277.40 177.30 1	+11.70 -1,100 -240.70 -1.00 -2.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00 -1.00	2.28 6.99 7.35 6.77
	MGN House, Final Indiana, Maria Banda House, Final Indiana, Maria Banda Accidental Sits Acc North American Acc People Basin Acc Proof Interest Acc Proof Interest Acc Proof Interest Acc Proposit Acc Deposit Acc Managed Acanaged Acanaged Acanaged Acc Maria Banda Ban	John J. 105.00 (1916) (331,90 126,20 126,20 283,00 283,10 283,10 300,20 284,10 300,20 284,10 300,20 300,20 304,20 304,20 494,10 49	* 8.50 * 1.50 * 1.50 * 1.50 * 1.60 * 1.60	C. C	New Hall Pince 1051 239 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund Savin & Profit Savin & Property Fund (4) Global Equity Fund (5) Glif Fund (5) Glif Fund (5) Glif Fund (5) Savin & Property Fund (4) AG Bond Fund (5) Savin & Profit Savin	FEE 151.00	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.40 963.00 973.60 168.00 902.73 473.70 902.73 177.80 17	*11.70 - 1.10 - 2.62 - 1.10 - 2.62 - 1.10 - 2.62 - 1.10	2.39 6.97 6.77
	MGM House, I MAIN HOUSE, I MAI	Julian J. 155.00 151.00 151.00 151.00 151.00 151.00 151.00 151.10 151.00	331, % 520,000 178,000	+ 8.50 + 3.50 + 5.50 + 6.50 + 5.90 + 5.90 + 1.90 + 2.00 - 2.00 Menul - 0.00 - 1.40 - 0.00 - 1.40 - 0.00 - 1.40 - 0.00 - 0.00		New Hall Pince 1952 293 200 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund SAVE & PROSE 1972 Western Park 1972 Saven Park 1	FEE 151.00	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.40 963.00 973.60 168.00 902.73 473.70 902.73 177.80 17	*11.70 - 1.10 - 2.62 - 1.10 - 2.62 - 1.10 - 2.62 - 1.10	2.39 6.97 6.77
	MGN House, Final I Many House, Final I III. I Many Like Equity Act Special Sits Acc North American Act Special Sits Acc North American Act Final I Many Many Many Many Many Many Many Many	July 20 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10 10	331,40 281,00 281,00 281,00 281,00 350,20 35	* 8.50 * 1.50 * 1.50 * 5.70 * 6.70 * 1.100 * 5.70 * 1.100 * 1.100		New Hall Pince 1051 279 3000 Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund Royal Life Unit Li Managed Fund Life Unit Lif	1 Liverput 1 Liverput 1 Liverput 1 Liverput 1 1 Live	942.00 942.00 942.00 953.00 95	+11.70 -1.10 -2.22 -1.10 -1.22 -1.10	2.22 6.99 7.37 6.77
	MGN House, Final Ind. I Keguly Acc Special Sits Acc North American N American Acc Pocific Basin Acc Proof Interest Acc Proposit Acc Deposit Acc Deposit Acc Managed	Julian J. 1986	331,90 178,00 17	* 8.50 * 13.60 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 16.70 * 16	CH.	New Hall Pince 1051 239 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund Savil & Profit Andrew Savil & Profit &	PEE 151.00	942.00 942.00 942.00 943.00 94	+11.70 -1.10 -1.20	2.22 6.99 7.33 6.77 6.77 6.77 6.77 6.77 6.77 6.77
	MGN House, Final LINY, CHIM I'K Equity Acc Special Sits Acc North American North American North American Pacific Basin Acc Proced Interest Pacific Basin Acc Proced Interest Pacific Basin Acc Proced Interest Pacific Basin Acc Property Acc Deposit Deposit Acc Managed Mana	Julian 11 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	331,40 126,20 128,20 12	* 8.50 * 13.60 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 15.70 * 16.70 * 16	th the	New Hall Pince 1051 239 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund Savil & Profit Andrew Savil & Profit &	PER MANUAL PROPERTY OF THE PRO	942.00 942.00 1452.40 680.00 1952.2	+11.70 -1.10	2.23 6.97 7.33 6.77
	MGM House, Final LIDY, GNEE I KE EQUITY ANY ICK EQUITY ANY ICK EQUITY ANY SPECIAL SITS AND NORTH AMERICAN NORTH AMERICAN PACIFIC BASIS AND PACIFIC BASIS INITIAL BASIS INI	James W 194,000 1311 10 131 10 131 131 131 131 131 1	331,40 126,20 128,20 128,20 128,20 128,20 128,20 128,10 12	* 8.50	KH	New Hall Pince 1051 239 300 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Pund Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Pund Royal When The Bellow Pand Royal When Pand Royal Roy	1 Ureps abed 515.00 515	942.00 942.00 105.20 53.40 963.00 972.60 164.00 903.73 473.00 903.73 173.00 173	+11.70 -1.10 -1.260	2.23 6.97 7.33 6.77
	MGM House, Fishell 1977, GNEE I KE EQUITY, GNEE I KE EQUITY ACT Special Sits Acc North American North American North American Pacific Basin Acc Property Acc Deposit Deposit Acc Managed Manag	James W 194,000 1311 16 16 16 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	331,40 320,30 32	* 8.50	KH	New Hall Pince 055 229 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund 15	PER 151.00	942.00 942.00 1453.40 684.00 175.2	+11.70 -1.10	2.22 6.99 7.37 6.77
	MGM House, Fishell 1977, GHM I'K Equity Acr Special Sits Acc North American N American Acr Pocific Basin Acc North American Profice Basin Acc Property Acc Deposit Deposit Acc Managed	Jesus H 194,00 1311 10 201,00 131 10 10 131	331,40 126,30 128,30 12	* 8.50 * 13.60 * 15.70 * 5.70 * 5.70 * 5.70 * 1.40 * 1.	EH	New Hall Pince 1051 239 3000 Royal Life Unit 11 Managed Fund 15 Managed Fund 1	Timep and the state of the stat	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.00 574.00 574.00 575.30 677.30 575.30	*11.70 *11.70 *1.10 *1.20 *1.1	2.28 6.99 7.37 6.77
	MGM House, Fishell 1977, Grint It Really LIK Equity Acr Special Sits Acc North American Fishell State Acr North American Fishell Sits Acc North American Fishell Sits Acc North American Fishell Sits Acc North American Fishell Interest Acc Property Acc Deposit Acc Deposit Acc Deposit Acc Deposit Acc Managed Managed Acc Managed Managed Acc Managed Managed Fishell Sits Bartholosowe Managed Managed Fishell Sits Acc North American S	Jackson 1916 1916 1916 1916 1916 1916 1916 191	331,40 320,30 32	* 8.50 * 15.00 * 15.00 * 15.00 * 15.00 * 15.00 * 15.00 * 15.00 * 16.00 * 16	EH	New Hall Pince 1051 239 3000 Royal Lile Unit 11 Managed Fund 15 Managed Fund 1	Timep of the policy of the pol	942.00 942.00 105.20 453.00 574.00 574.00 575.30 902.70 477.30 903.70 477.30 903.70	*11.70 *11.70 *1.1	2.28 6.99 7.37 6.77
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Asia trips up pensions tied to investment trusts

heap investment trust pensions promised to deliver a knockout blow to overcharging insurance company personal pensions. But the collapse in Asian markets and widening trust discounts are threatening to give investment trust pensions a bloody nose.

Some Asia-invested trusts have been in free-fall this year. Shares in Pacific Assets, managed by Ivory & Sime, are down a staggering 55 per cent, falling from 116p at the start of the year to 53p this week. Over the same period, Foreign & Colonial's Pacific Trust has fallen 31 per cent. But why should investment trust pension holders be worse hit than other pension holders?

Roddy Kohn, an investment trust broker and member of the Personal Investment Authority, the regulator, said: "Because of the limited range of investment trust pensions, there is a reasonable probability that you could end up in a nightmare situation. Although they are cheap, you can get egg all over your

Investment trusts have also suffered more than similarly invested unit trusts, as demand for the shares has fallen even faster than the value of their underlying

Only four companies offer investment trust pensions: Flemings, Foreign & Colonial, Edinburgh Fund Managers and ivory & Sime. Investors can choose from a range of trusts, including generalist

funds and managed portfolios.

But of Edinburgh's choice of 13 trusts for its pension, five are in high-risk Asian and emerging markets. Flemings, a Far East specialist, has a range of 18 trusts under its pension plan, with five invested in Asian or emerging markets. Lower-risk with-profits funds, the bastion of insurance company personal pensions, are not offered by investment



Bangkok is still as hustling and bustling as ever but now the steam has gone out of the stock market and the currency trusts available for pension investment,

sonal pensions are only three years old, with the first launched by Foreign & Colonial in 1994. Flemings followed in 1995, and earlier this year slashed charges, claiming its pension was the cheapest on the market.

But Mr Kohn said: "At the time, I recall Flemings was promoting its Far East (now Fleming Asian) Trust quite heavily as a recovery play. If you were on the wrong end of a recommendation like that a year ago you wouldn't be very happy now." Other Fleming investment

such as the Claverhouse and American

Trusts, have performed well.

Mr Kohn said: "I accept that you could have done well if you picked the right trust, but this does highlight the risks in using investment trusts for a pension. Overall, I am a fan of investment trusts, and would use a nice defensive, low-tomedium risk trust such as TR Property, but it's simply not available for use in a

ment trust analyst at NatWest Markets, rejects the suggestions that investment trust pensions are inherently risky. He said: "It is highly unlikely that anyone would put all their pension investment into a single trust, and you shouldn't just look at one-year performance when considering a pension — it's for the long term. Comparing a single country trust in the Far East with an insurance company with-profits fund is comparing apples with pears. They are completely

Yours faithfully. 6 Wisley Road,

- WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

Added burden for borrowers

From the Chief Executive, Market Harborough

Building Society Sir, I write with reference to your article (Prices may surge 11% next year, November 22) regarding higher home loan payments occurring when fixed-rate mortgage deals run

out in 1998. The issue that I think should be raised, and which has not been so far, is that millions of people currently have their mortgage interest payments determined by the annual review system. In effect, some lenders after their interest rate

only once per year, reflecting rises or falls that have taken place during the preceding 12

Clearly, those mortgage customers that are on the annual review system and where review is due to take place in 1998 will be impacted severely (probably by at least 1.25 per cent), this equating to approximately a £45 per month increase on a typical £50,000

interest-only mortgage loan. I do not believe that the prognosis for the housing market in 1998 is as rosy as some commentators in LonEast Midlands I fear that housing transactions will slow down, that house price inflation will be contained below 3 per cent and that the impact of interest rate rises, the annual review system and the point you raised in your article will lead to increasing levels of arrears in the 212 to 5 per cent band. Naturally I hope that I

am wrong. Yours faithfully. PHILIP R. DEARING, Welland House, The Square, Market Harborough, Leics.

A question for the FSA on the link between commission and impartiality

Sir. When the two thousand staff of the new investor protection watchdog, the Financial Services Authority, are safely ensconced in their Canary Wharf offices, perhaps one of them could spare the time to answer a question that has puzzled me, and possibly other Weekend Money readers, for some

This is the question. Why is an independent financial adviser allowed to claim that he offers "utterly impartial advice" and will "select the best product most suited to his client's needs" ... and then do exactly the opposite by recommending the product that pays the most commission? It is difficult to think of any other walk of life where sellers can legitimately disguise their goods and services to the detriment of their customers in

I look forward to reading the FSA's reply to my question in Weekend Money. ALAN JENKINS,



nus costs, over the investment period. Investors pick a trust

or a selection of trusts offered

by the manager, and switches

can be made between trusts.

Minimum contributions can

be as little as £100 per month

nvestment trusts are employer contributions, is wide selection of stocks and shares. A number of investment trust management groups allow you to pay pension contributions, enjoving the usual pension tax advantages, into one or more of their trusts.

For whom are they a

Anybody with a com-

pooled equity invest- well-advised to stay with the ments, typically in a scheme. But for the selfemployed or those without a company scheme, investment trust pensions should be considered alongside the fraditional insurance company personal pension. Investment trusts can also be used as a free-standing additional voluntary contribution to top up a company pension.

Anybody with a com- Q work in practice?

or £1,000 hump sums. Q tages over traditional What are the advan-A Personal personal the domain of the insur-Personal pensions are ance industry, and are criti-cised for high set-up charges and onerous ongoing adminis-trative charges. In some schemes these can result in a serious reduction in future

> returns. Investment trusts generally have lower and more transparent charges. There are no baffling "capital" "accumulation" units or "nil allocation periods".

investment trust personal pensions also have a high

shares in an investment trust, degree of flexibility. There are whose value may go down as no penalties for stopping, well as up. The value of the starting or varying contribupension is determined by the tions or retirement date. performance of the trust, mi-

What are the disadvantages of investment trust personal pensions? Volatility and spread of A investments. As the recent sharp falls in Asian

markets confirm, having all your pension eggs in one investment trust basket can be an extremely risky strategy.... Insurance company personlower-risk, with profits funds, which have a spread of foreign and domestic equities, bonds, property and cash. The aim of the with-profits fund is

to smooth returns and lock in gains. They also usually have mechanisms to transfer your money into lower-risk investments to avoid a stock market crash wiping out your fund weeks or months before retirement

What sort of are involved? What sort of charges

There is an initial set-up There is an initial set-up charge, typically around floo, an annual administration fee of around £50, and an annual management charge of up to 0.5 per cent of the value of the fund. Stamp duty of 0.5 per cent is also payable on share purchases and

switches. There is also the question of fees to advisers. Investment trusts are usually aimed at feebased brokers and so are not generally structured to pay out commission.

trust pensions?

A Edinburgh Fund Managers (0800 838993) Fleming Investment Trust Managers (0500 500324) Foreign & Colonial (0171-454 John Govett (0800 252338)

The Association of Investment Trust Companies produces a free factsheet on investment trust pensions. Telephone 0171-282 5555 for a copy.

Ivory & Sime (0131-220 4239)

Small niggle

From Mr G. R. Finney Sir, My wife has just been advised by Framlington that there will be a "small increase" (from 1 per cent to 1.25 per cent) in the annual management charge of her unit trust, owing to the increasing costs of regulatory compliance and administration.

The new rate may compare favourably with that of other fund managers but to call a swingeing 25 per cent increase small must surely contravene the Trade Descriptions Act! Yours faithfully, G. R. FINNEÝ,

Church Road, Woking, Surrey.

Customer still the poor relation

public is sub-standard. and receiving poor service. The only response from a

Unhappy over the inconvenience of National Savings gilt switch

From Mr Eric Mason Sir. The National Savings Office in Blackpool has notified me as a holder of gilts bought through the National Savings Stock Register that from mid-1998, subject to par-liamentary approval, gilts will be administered only by the

Bank of England. Details of the change are to be published in the new year. but this cost-cutting exercise looks ominous to me. Dealing in gilts with the Bank of England at present means going through a stockbroker and paying missions than National Savings charges.

Moreover, the National

"no one else has complained".

companies be compelled to

compensate me for my wasted

time, costs and aggravation?

49 South Molton Street, WI.

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Yours faithfully, ROBERT BRECKMAN.

Is it not time that deficient

Savings Office pays dividends

company is a glib "sorry" and

From Mr Robert Breckman Sir, By having customer relations departments, companies recognise their service to the

I am increasingly frustrated at returning shoddy goods,

gross, which is very useful to non-taxpayers and low-liability payers like me. The Bank of England deducts income tax. which has to be laboriously reclaimed later from the Inland Revenue. Must we suffer vet another loss of convenience in the name of economy? Yours faithfully,

ERIC MASON. 7 Long Row, Snape Road.

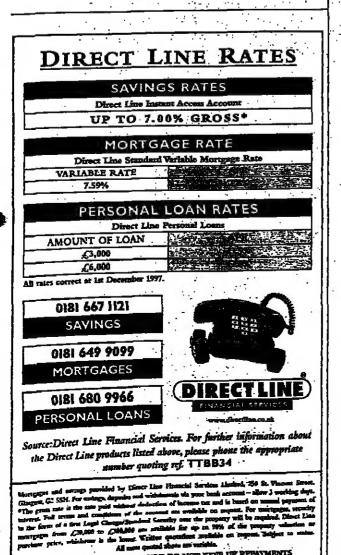
> end Money section are welcomed, but The Times regrets it cannot give individual replies or advice. No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and independent professional advice should always be sought on investment matters. Letters to Weekend Money can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

Foreign & Colonial invented the investment trust in 1868 "to give the investor of moderate means the same advantages as

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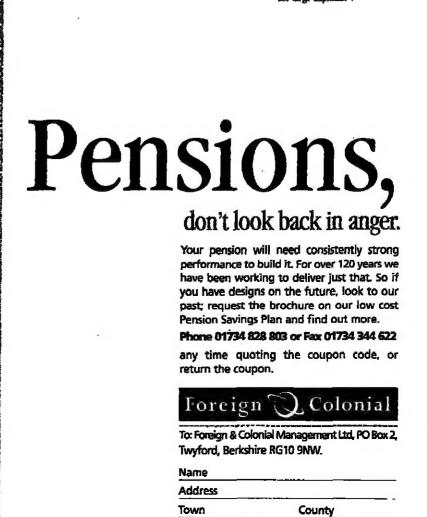
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YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR CTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.





The value of shares and the income from them can fall as well as rise and you may not get back the full amount invested. Past performance is not a guide to the future. Tax benefits may vary as a result of statutory changes and their value will depend on individual circumstances. Foreign & Colonial Management Limited

Postcode

New savings scheme | Hold on to those could hit Pep loans

The birth of the individual savings account (Isa) has implications for the thousands of borrowers now repaying their mortgages with personal equity plan (Pep) schemes. The future impact will be greatest on prospective homebuyers in the

A single person contemplating the purchase of a £150,000 flat with a mortgage close to the value of the property may prefer to opt for a repayment loan, as an Isa might not yield a big enough return to ensure that the loan would be fully repaid.

Although individuals are enti-tled to invest £9,000 a year into Peps, there will be a £5,000 annual limit and a £50,000 lifetime limit on contributions.

The Treasury has already conceded that 'sas will no longer be suitable for repaying the E300,000 plus short-term loans of

than £300,000 over 25 years.

Despite his profession Mr

Bowes, 31, does not claim any

foresight; he simply did not want

to put all his eggs in one basket.

Fortunately, he has saved them

both the extra worry which neither

of them needs right now as they look forward to having their first

child in February. Boy? Girl? The

Bowes have no preference, so long

as it is not twins. Complicated

financial arrangements are one

thing, it seems, but home life must

Mr Bowes pays £100 a month

into the Pep which now holds

be as simple as possible.

Anne Ashworth on how Isa might

affect certain types of home borrowing

only if the investments were managed expertly would an Isa be guaranteed to yield enough money to repay such a debt over a ten-year period. Attempting to justify the switch from the Pep to the Isa. ministers are said to be concerned about the numbers of high-risk Pep mortgages being sold.

B ut one mortgage broker doubted whether scores of borrowers were being persuaded to take out unsuitable Peps. He commented: "The commissions on Peps are fairly low so, frankly. there is little incentive to recommend them."

Although most Pep mortgage borrowers need have no concern that their loans will not be repaid, they will be seeking reassurances that they will be able to transfer their Pep holdings into an Isa at no

bureaucracy. The Treasury envisages that Pep savings schemes will simply be renamed Isa savings schemes in April. As the average amount saved in a Pep mortgage repayment scheme is £20,000 few will be hit by the £50,000 limit.

acknowledges that the transition will pose problems: "The Government recognises that switching Pep investments into the Isa will not be straightforward and will inevitably

However, the Isa consultation

The Halifax, which is the largest provider of Pep mortgages, is

sanguine about the Government's proposals. The bank, which has been offering thir type of loan for three years, has _0,000 customers with Pep mortgages, mostly in joint names. The average loan is £60,000. No borrower will have accumulated £50,000 in a Halifax Pep by April 1999, the date on

which the Isa will supplant the Pep. The Halifax said that the Isa would provide an ideal replacement for the Pep, as the annual limit of £5,000 is several times larger than necessary to meet the average mortgage. The bank has calculated that anyone investing the limit in an Isa would be able at least to repay a £125,000 mortgage. A couple with a joint mortgage each contributing the maximum amount

could accumulate £250,000. Keith Abercrombie of the Halifax said that the bank would be working with the Treasury to ensure that the process of transfer

Tessas and Peps

Tinancial advisers and tax accountants will be among the beneficiaries of the new individual savings account schemes as the estimated 450,000 people who have more than £50,000 in equity-based investments seek advice on other tax-

efficient homes for their money. Most IFAs are advising clients to hold their Pep and Tessa funds, even those who have more than the £50,000 Isa limit. They continue to put money into Pep plans to make the most of the taxfree income and growth until Isas are introduced in April 1999. Here Weekend Money looks at the options available.

I have never invested in a Pep. Is this the right time do so?

IFAs are rencent about for ommending a product that is about to be scrapped, but most state of the scrapped in the state of the scrapped in th IFAs are reticent about recagree that there are almost 15 months of tax-free growth available to investors who buy a Pep now. Most Pep providers are likely to provide Isas as well and should allow you to switch your

Q I have been investing in Peps but am nowhere near the £50,000 limit. Is it a good

A For those people who contribute on a monthly basis, there is no reason to stop, according to Mike Owen of Plan Invest. "Peps are a relatively lowcost investment product and the advantage of continuing is that your fund can grow tax-free between now and April 1999." He also recommends that people who have not used up this year's Pep allowance should do so before next April. All financial advisers recommended people continue to hold their Peps.

I have more than £50,000 in Peps and I am worried about what will happen to my investments under the new regime. What can I do in advance?

A There may be up to 750,000 people in this position, some of whom could have a fund of more than £150,000 built up in the ten years since Peps were introduced. Both Mr Owen and Tim Cockerill, a director of the Bristol-based IFA Whitechurch Securities, believe people whose investments are higher than the Isa limit should continue to hold onto their funds.

Marianne Curphey

looks at the options

for those with more than £50,000 in

tax-free investments

We are a married couple with £100,000 in Peps between us. Are we allowed to put £50,0000 each into an Isa?

A Yes. Mr Cockerill recom-mends that if the husband holds £100,000 worth of Peps and the wife few investments, the husband should sell half of the holding, transfer the proceeds into his wife's name (such transfers do not attract tax) and then use up her Isa allowance.

What are the capital gains tax implications of Isa?

A UK investors who do not put their money in a taxincome tax at their highest rate on dividends from bonds and shares, and capital gains tax (CGT) on any appreciation in the underlying value of the fund when they sell it. There is an annual CGT exemption of £6,500.

The appeal of Peps is that you pay no income tax or CGT on the investments within the Pep. All investments within Peps will be rehased to their value at October 6, 1999, for CGT purposes. Acconding to Mr Cockerill, this means that when investors come to sell their stocks, they may not have to pay CGT on the gains.

How will that work in practice?

If you have not transferred your Pep into an Isa by October 5, 1999, then any growth in the fund after then will be liable for CGT, minus your annual exemption. The answer, he says, is to make use of "good old-fashioned tax planning". This includes "bed and breakfasting" when you sell your holdings at the end of the tax year to make use of the CGT allowances, and then buy them back the next day.

Q so what are the tives to the Isa scheme? So what are the alterna-

A Paul Freeman, tax specialist

investors who held large sums in Peps but who did not need income from their investments could switch to a UK-based unit trust that did not pay any income. thereby avoiding income tax on dividends. If they held the trust indefinitely, they would not have

to pay CGT either. ian Milward, of Chase de Vere. says that tax avoidance should not be your first priority and that investment trusts and unit trusts are sensible vehicles for longterm savers. He added: "Pick lowyielding but high growth stocks which mean that you pay very little tax on the dividends."

Are there any other options for people with substantial Pep holdings?

A For the very wealthy, there is the option to take your money offshore. Schemes known as roll-up funds and investment bonds allow people to defer paying tax until a later date, for example, when they have retired and are paying a lower rate of tax. or in a year when their earnings

are lower than usual. All gains within offshore in-vestment bonds roll up free of tax and investments can be bought and sold within the bond without incurring a CGT liability. Under current law, UK investors can also withdraw up to 5 per cent of their original investment without

paying tax. However, the drawback is that there may be a very different tax regime in place in the years to come. Another potential problem is that charges on these bonds can be heavy. Also, these schemes are known to tax accountants as tax avoidance and although they are legal, the Government is thought to be keen on scrapping them.

What about changing my domicile for tax purposes?

Another option is to retire to a tax haven and become domiciled for tax purposes on an island such as Jersey, the Cayman Islands, the Virgin Islands or Bermuda, where income tax and CGT are lower than in the UK. This is a radical step, since to qualify as being domiciled overseas you need to have spent at least a year outside the UK.

If you are an ordinary investor and open a savings account in Jersey and are resident in the UK. the law requires you to declare the money you earn overseas on with Coopers & Lybrand. your tax form and pay tax on it.



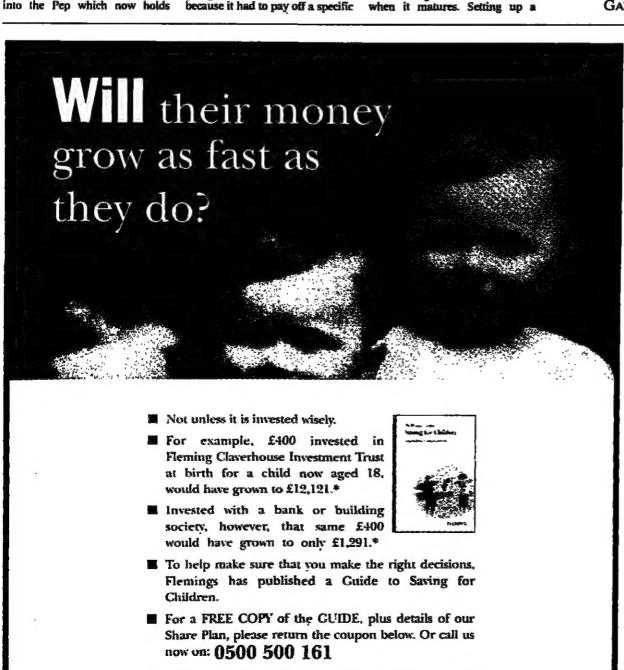
Fiona and Jonathan Bowes's home is being paid for with a Pep, a pension and two endowments

£10,000, a long way from the Isa limit. He stuck with M&G's Pep for four years before switching to Fidelity this year.

Mr Bowes explains the arrange-ment: "Because I am a financial adviser I decided to spread the risk. I did not want all the money going into unit-linked investments because it had to pay off a specific loan. I didn't want to be in the situation where three or four years from repayment a stock market crash wiped out the savings. A with-profit endowment smooths out the returns and is a good balance with a Pep. I also have a Maximum Investment Plan, which will give me a tax-free sum

pay back the mortgage sooner but have less in your call. but it was my personal view. You ve less in your retirement." Although Mr Bowes is safe he is disappointed on behalf of savers who have put more than £50,000 into Peps and Tessas.

GAVIN LUMSDEN



Source: Murapal, net income removated, £400 unvested over 18 years to 1st November 1997.

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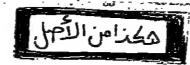
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MARKS & SPENCER FINANCIAL SERVICES



n retrospect it was entirely appropriate that the Government chose Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillion-aire Paymaster General, to introduce the individual savings account this week. The Isa's £50,000 liketime limit on contributions leaves up to 500,000 savers wondering what to do with their "excess" investments, which will no longer enjoy tax relief from

However, the helpful Mr Robinson has already shown the way - take the money offshore. The Labour MP and businessman was acutely em-barrassed earlier in the week by revelations that he holds £12 million in offshøre trusts despite explicit warnings from Gordon Brown, the Chancely lor, that he will not tolerate millionaires avoiding tax in offshore havens.

But in spite of the Chancellor's moral rhetoric there is a range of offshore options available to ordinary savers. Here we explain them.

HAVENS

AN OFFSHORE haven is a place where taxation has been set at deliberately low or nonexistent levels to attract savings from countries with less generous fiscal regimes. Many of the world's tax havens are small islands with few natural resources that have turned to financial services to generate a modern economy.

However, one of the largest centres is the landlocked city state of Luxembourg. The Isle of Man, the Channel Islands

Taking the offshore option

Gavin Lumsden looks at the most effective way to prevent the taxman

from getting at your investments

and Dublin are the most commonly used offshore centres by UK residents for tax planning purposes. Money in a bank, fund or trust registered in one of these centres can grow free of tax. Of course, it is taxed when brought back to the UK. but at that point the investor may be on a lower tax rate.

WHY WAIT?

WHAT am I waiting for? Putting your money offshore is not for everyone. Basic-rate taxpayers may find the extra paperwork outweighs the bene-fits. Those people most likely to reap a reward are non-taxpayers and, of course, those paying the higher rate of 40 per cent. It is no coincidence that offshore investing has a millionairefriendly image. Minimum levels of investment in offshore funds, for instance, can be as high as £15,000. Expenses and management charges are high-

NON-TAXPAYERS

WHAT is in it for the nontaxpayers? Some investment products, such as bonds issued by insurance companies, pay 23 per cent tax on their underlying investments in the UK. As non-taxpayers cannot reclaim this they are better off buying the bond offshore. where it is exempt from taxation.

BONDS

INSURANCE bonds are the backbone of the offshore industry. They are simply wrap-pers around investments in much the same way as a Pep is, or an isa will be. Assets held within a bond can grow almost entirely tax-free (there are a few exceptions where tax on dividends cannot be

In addition, investors can withdraw 5 per cent of their money each year, free of tax. Investors can save up this allowance and withdraw 15 per cent after three years, for example. However, the Inland Revenue is keen to reform this

Insurance bonds are not to be confused with the completely different kind of bonds issued by companies looking to increase their borrowings without going to the bank. Those bonds pay a fixed level of interest and are traded on the stock market. At the moment insurance bonds only take lump sum investments, although there are plans by some insurers to accept regular premiums, which should broaden their appeal.

There are two types of bonds. The simplest is a life bond, which holds the funds run by the life insurance company. However, you can also use a bond as an administrative vehicle to hold a much

Tessa will be a very popular girl this Christmas. Although

about 4.5 million people are

currently saving in tax-exempt spe-

cial savings accounts (Tessas), many

more will now resolve to use their



Team Treasury: from left, Geoffrey Robinson with Helen Liddell, Gordon Brown, Dawn Primarolo and Alistair Darling

wider range of onshore and offshore funds from different management companies. For instance, it will be possible for investors to put unit trusts from companies such as Perpetual, Fidelity and Jupiter, which are currently in Peps, into offshore bonds when Peps are scrapped.

Insurers charge between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent of the funds under management for the bond wrapper, so do your sums first. Shop around because some insurers will often offer discounts to individual fund managers. You can put shares into a bond but if you do the Inland Revenue will consider it to be "highly personalised" and will force you to pay tax on everything the bond holds. This also rules out investment trusts.

The best thing about off-shore bonds, though, is that you can avoid having to make a declaration on your self-assessment form. Ordinarily income received from unit trusts and shares and interest from bank and building society accounts has to be declared to the taxman. In a bond there is nothing to declare until you withdraw the money.

OTHER FUNDS

WHAT other funds are there? By going offshore, investors can choose the European equivalents to the unit trust. called Ucits or Sicav. Many of these are run by familiar

onshore fund managers and are listed daily in the financial pages. There are two types, roll-up (or non-distributor) and distributor funds. Roll-up funds do not pay dividends. therefore are not suitable if you need an income. However, all the capital and income produced by your investment grows entirely taxfree until you withdraw it.

when it is liable to income tax. Distributor funds pay a gross dividend on which UK

residents have to pay income tax. However, higher-rate earners may still find the taxfree income useful because they can choose when to pay the tax. Alternatively, you can put the funds in a bond and, provided the income is less than 5 per cent, take the dividend tax-free. As with buying a unit trust it is important to look at the per-

formance record and charges

TRUSTS

of the fund manager.

THESE are a way for individuals to transfer the legal ownership and tax liability of an asset while dictating who receives the benefit from it. They are often used in inheritance tax planning, aithough there are specialist accumulation and growth trusts for children's education. For instance, parents can shelter. money in a probate trust so that it goes to their children: when they die. However, the European law.

money will become part of their estate and will be taxed. To avoid this another option is to set up a gift trust, which is effectively a living will. If the gift trust is set up seven years before the parent dies there is no tax to pay. Offshore insur-ance companies will offer template trusts for you to buy off the shelf although you should

check with a solicitor first. Trustee services start at around £150 a year. If you are expecting to draw on the trust before your death you may need a more complicated and expensive arrangement. These can cost thousands of pounds to establish and maintain, and the advice of a professional adviser, such as an accountant, is essential. A neat twist to trusts is the dead settlor rule. This enables beneficiaries of a trust to receive any income from the trust tax-free after the death of the person who established the trust. Again, the taxman has this on his hitlist.

DANGERS

THERE are two dangers to the offshore investor: scandal and the taxman. Fortunately. despite some shady customers, offshore centres put a high premium on investor protection. Nevertheless, you might be best sticking with wellknown companies with offices on the mainland. The Isle of Man, for instance, has an investor protection scheme which will reimburse 90 per cent of your money if a bank or insurance company goes bust.

The UK, by contrast, sets a £48,000 limit on its insurance scheme. Guernsey, where Mr Robinson has his millions, is less secure. It offers no protection for holders of trusts, bonds or bank deposits, but it will offer up to £60,000 compensation to investors in

The taxman is a different matter. Five per cent with-drawal and dead settlor probably have a limited lifespan. However, there is little the Chancellor can do to limit the tax efficiency of offshore bonds because they comply with

Life companies have been left in the dark

The UK's biggest life and pensions provid-ers have admitted that they are still unclear how the life insurance element of individual savings accounts (Isas) will work.

Under the proposals outlined this week the Government said that it is keen to include a life insurance component in the Isa to help people to combine an element of protection with their savings.

This type of policy would pay out a lump sum if you died, but it also acts as a long-term savings plan. However, Standard Life. the biggest name in UK life and pensions, said it is still mystified by the Isa's proposed structure. Of the £5,000 annual contribution limit. £1,000 can be placed into a life insurance policy issued by insurance companies or friendly societies. Some commentators have offered as a sop to keep the life insurance industry

happy.
Andrew Black, marketing manager at Standard Life, says details are still unclear. "Under the terms of the Isa, you are allowed to place your investment with a new manager every year, in the way you currently can with a personal equity plan. However, life insurance policies are intended to be placed with a provider and contributions added over many years. We are not sure how this squares with the idea of regularly switching managers

Standard Life is not one of the insurance companies which charges high upgoing fees for its products. Nevertheless, the other element the Government needs to address in drawing up firm plans for the Isa is the high start-up charges and ongoing commission levied by some insurance companies on their life

Unless the Government imposes a standard tariff of charges, which is unlikely, investors will have to look carefully at the costs of having the life insurance element of their Isa managed by the different companies, and then try to fees and a good track

Legal & General has announced that investors will be able to transfer existing L&G Peps into their Isas or those of rivals without charge. Other insurance companies are likely to be less generous if you transfer your Pep to a rival, and may levy exit fees.

MARIANNE CURPHEY

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Tessa still has her admirers

transfer is made it counts towards the £50,000 lifetime limit on Isa contributions.

While Tessas will no longer be on The Tessa rules are simple. You can save up to £9,000 over a five-year sale from April 1999, Tessa holders period, contributing a maximum of will be able to continue to pay into their accounts until they mature £3,000 in the first year. £1,800 in the and then move the capital (a second, £1,800 in the third, £1,800 in maximum of £9,000) into an indithe fourth and £600 in the final year. vidual savings account (Isa). The interest accumulated in the account A grand total of £26 billion is now deposited in these accounts. But the cannot be transferred. When a Government believes that Tessa is

not appealing to the low-paid because anyone touching their capital during the five-year period loses the right to tax-free interest.

Labour ministers believe Tessa is the darling of the middle classes. who can afford to take a long-term view. They believe that those on low incomes will only learn to be thrifty if they can have instant access to

Isa's fans will be able to save just

£1,000 a year in cash, well below the Tessa annual limits. David Oliver, partner at Arthur Andersen, the accountants, believes that this rule indicates a desire to see people saving long term in stocks and shares. He said: "The clear message is that cash is not the right vehicle for long-term savings."

Despite the penalties, many people already use Tessas as instant access accounts. They are prepared

TWO NEW SMALLER COMPANIES FUNDS

to pay, the tax on the interest because Tessas rates are higher than average, particularly on low balances. Elspeth May, partner at KPMG, the accountants, says everyone should have a Tessa because the rates are usually good. "If you have to close the account and pay the tax, then you are still better off." If you have less than £100 to invest id a Tessa, you can earn 7 per cent at the Halifax, 6.55 per cent at Abbey National and 7.50 per cent at

Midland (best buys, see page 60).

ANNE ASHWORTH

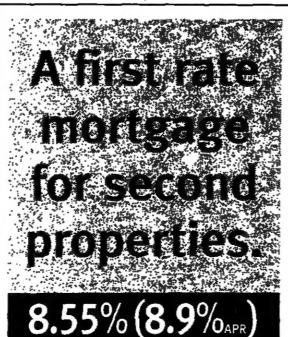


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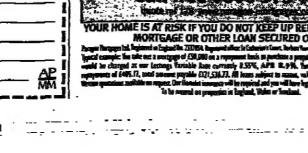
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GIRL POWER 59

What's more desirable than a Spice doll?

WEEKEND MONEY

MAKING THE GRADE 53

The problems and costs of listed homes



Caroline Merrell on the individual savings account, and Peps and Tessas

What does Isa mean to me?

Access is key for teacher

he idea of an individ-ual savings account (Isa) appeals to Jake Newton, a 27-year-old biology teacher at a secondary school in Wakefield. West Yorkshire.

He has some savings in a Sainsbury's Bank account. which is currently paying 6.5 per cent on balances of £1 or more, but does not have any personal equity plans or Tessas. He automatically contributes to a pension

Mr Newton has his own flat, on which he paid a 5 per cent deposit, and with a salary of £20,500 his main expenses are his mortgage and the running of his car.



Jake Newton is not too concerned about the lifetime limit

He said: "I am not too concerned about the £50,000 lisetime contribution limit for the Isa because to me right now £50,000 seems a

"I do like the idea that you can hold cash in the account

and can withdraw it without having to give notice. That means that if something goes wrong with the car I can get my hands on the money

MARIANNE CURPHEY

he launch of a new savings scheme is not usually the stuff of front page headlines. But the publication of a consultation document detailing the new individual savings account (Isa), Labour's tax-free answer to the problem of low saving among the populace, raised a rumpus. The Pep and the Tessa, the two Tory-devised schemes that will be replaced by the Isa, have never achieved such celebrity (Anne

Ashworth writes).

The proposals were called an attack on the prudent and thrifty of Middle Britain. At first, it appeared that 750,000 people would be adversely affected, being prevented from transferring Pep holdings of more than t50,000 into an Isa. A swift correction followed. It was claimed that the measure would hit only 350,000 to 500,000 people. However, this figure cannot be substantiated. ed, as it is now clear that there are no entirely reliable statistics on how much is held in Peps and Tessas, or on the numbers

But Geoffrey Robinson, the multimillionaire Paymaster General who has assumed special responsibility for the account, believes that they are mostly the undeserving rich from socio-economic groups A and B.

The £50,000 limit has angered thousands

How do I transfer my

current investments?

A The paper issued by the Inland Revenue this

week is for consultation pur-

poses only. Details of transfer-

ring investments have yet to

be worked out. The Govern-

ment does not want to see the

industry imposing high charges for changing Peps

Who will lose and who will gain with Isas?

A The biggest losers under the new savings plans

will be people with more than

£50,000 sheltered in Peps.

and Tessas into Isas.

of the prudent of all classes who have been using Peps to supplement their pension savings. The imposition of this arbitrary

ceiling has found no supporters.

Jason Hollands, of BESt Investment, a firm of advisers specialising in Peps, said that many of those who had contacted him had holdings below the £50,000 maximum but had hoped to build up funds above this limit. Mr Hollands said: "They are teachers, level convergent workers and the Elicandes." local government workers and the like who do not wish to rely on the State in their old age. Most told me they had voted Labour."

Another source of grievance is the abrupt change in the rules. Those who had embarked on saving in Peps and Tessas feel that they have been misled. Elspeth May, partner at KPMG, said: "What guarantee is there that they will not change the rules." there that they will not change the rules again? How confident are people going to be about opening an Isa in the light of this

In this Weekend Money special, we explain what the Isa proposals mean for your financial future. We also tell you how to follow Mr Robinson's example and ensure that all savings above £50,000 can be made tax-free by going offshore. Write to us if you too want to take part in the consultation procedure.

place the Pep as a way to pay off a mortgage. People with Pep mortgages will be able to roll over their Peps into the They will have to find a way of dealing with the excess before October 1999. As each individual is allowed a £50,000 limit, Isa. The funds will continue to there may a case for transfergrow tax-free within the Isa. ring investments between spouses. Bob Rothenberg, of

Blick Rothenberg, the account-ancy firm. said that changes could mean an extra £1,400 a year in tax for an investor with £120,000 saved. He explained: "Say that he transfers the ESO,000 maximum into an Isa, leaving him with E70,000. If he invests this for a return of 5 per cent, this would give him £3,500 in income. The tax bill

on this would be £1,400."

Many in the financial services industry believe that there will be no winners under the new scheme. They do not believe that it will encourage the 20 million people with no savings at all to take up the habit.

More Isa details, pages 62, 63



Anne Ashworth on the launch of the Isa

: ··HOUSE BUYING

The cost of stepping back into history



INVESTMENT



Why some investors love Laura Ashley

* CHILDREN'S SAVINGS

A savings account: not just for Christmas



BUSINESS NEWS PAGES 27-31

WEEKEND MONEY is edited by Anne Ashworth

eekend Money The Government said A that it wanted to encourhas been inundat-ed by calls from readers puzzied and annoyed by the Government's plans for the individual savings account which were unveiled this week. Under the scheme, tax ex-

empt special savings accounts (Tessas) and personal equity plans (Peps) will cease to be sold from April 1999, Instead. the Government has decided to offer savers the Isa, a taxfree savings account, which has different limits from Peps and Tessas. Here, The Times tries to answer some questions about the Isa. However, readers should note that Isa proposals are by no means final. The Government is planning to consult on details of the scheme. In particular, transitional arrangements for investors with existing Tessas and Peps will have to be hammered

What is an individual

Under the terms of the A Isa, which will be availuals will be able save a total of 55,000 a year, up to a maximum contribution limit of £50,000 in the new account. Any income earned on the Isa. and any capital gains will be free of tax - just as with Peps. Unlike Tessas, in which savings are locked in for five years, investors will be able to access their Isa savings at any time. At first sight, the tax-free limits are far less generous than those for Peps and Tessas. At the moment, individuals can save up to £9,000 year in Peps, plus a total of 19,000 over a five-year period in a Tessa. There is no overall cap on contributions.

Why has the Government decided to intro-

age the savings habit among that half of the adult population with no savings at all. It felt that Peps had become a tax shelter for the rich. However, on closer examination, the Government's own figures show that it is merely hoping to share the current amount of tax relief given on Tessas and Peps among more people. So, some of those with Peps and Tessas will lose tax relief on in-

What can the £5.000 a year be invested in?

ments they already have.

A The £5,000 annual amount can be held in cash, stocks and shares, including investment trusts and unit trusts, and life insurance products, such as endowment savings contracts. These latter policies have been brought into disrepute in recent years because of high charges used to pay their sellers. Such charges severely hamper the products' performance.

There is a £1,000 limit on the

annual contributions into life insurance products. Strangely for an account meant to encourage poorer people to save, the entire £5,000 can be put into stocks and shares and unit trusts and investment trusts - a higher-risk alternative to cash. Unlike Peps, Isas will be able to invest in shares of companies quoted on any recognised stock exchange in the world. This will, for example, include shares on Nasdaq, the US market dominated by high-risk, high-tech companies. Again, this is not likely to appeal to poorer savers, who will be averse to risk. The Government is offering a 10 per cent credit on UK dividends, which should encourage investment in UK companies — the original purpose of Peps. However, according to Hill Samuel, the bank, this tax credit will be worth only about 520 a year on an average investment in a unit trust.

Who will be able to

isas will be offered by banks, building societies. life insurance companies, and investment management companies - organisations that at present offer Peps and Tessas. The Government also wants organisations having greater contact with the lowpaid to offer Isas; these would include supermarkets and credit unions. Sainsbury and Tesco already offer banking services. Savers will be able to take out one Isa a year. As with Peps, they will be able to change Isa providers each year. The Treasury claims that savers will be able to transfer Isas to another provider, if the performance of the product is poor. However, under the present proposals, the whole Isa has to be transferred. It is not possible to transfer only the poorly performing portion.

Peps and Tessas be How will existing treated under the Isa?

Around £58 billion is Around to held in Peps and £26 billion in Tessas. About 2.5 million people have Peps and 4.5 million have Tessas. Investments held in Peps and Tessas will be able to be rolled over into Isas, subject to a maximum fund limit of £50,000. If you like, the total rolled-over fund, not the amount that has been contributed, counts as a new contribution. It will. therefore, be deducted from the total contribution limit of £50,000. The Government expects savers to keep their existing products, and that they will simply be held within an Isa wrapper. The Treasury

tion limit with another Isa provider if they like. Tessas will cease to be opened from April, 1999. However, people taking them out before then will be able to run them to maturity. After maturity, £9,000 of the proceeds can be put in an Isa — again subject to the overal! £50.000 limit.

claims that people having

Peps with different providers

will not need to transfer the

holdings to one Isa provider. For example, a saver with £8,000 in an M&G Pep and

£8,000 in a Perpetual Pep will

be able to leave these invest-

ments where they are. They

can use their remaining

£34,000 below the contribu-

What if I have more than £50,000 in my entire Pep and Tessa holdings?

A This is the most contentious point of the proposals. The Government seems unable to decide how many people have more than £50,000 in Peps and Tessas. Figures of between 300,000 and 750,000 have been quoted government sources. As their term, the £50,000 limit has most impact on Pep holders. Pep holdings exceeding £50,000 on October 6, 1999 (the Government is giving a six-month adjustment period) will be affected. Holdings above that sum become subject to capital gains tax and income tax. Tax will be calculated from the October date. The Treasury does not expect a big sell-off of funds because investors can continue to hold the investments, although

What happens if I what nappens n have a Pep mortgage?

they will become taxable.

It has become common A for Peps to be used to pay off loans. According to Halifax, the isa could simply re-

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Lifetime limit deters analyst



Tim Eastwood intends to switch some of his investments into National Savings or Premium Bonds for tax reasons

Torking for a bank means Tim Eastwood took a careful look at the Government's new proposals to encourage savings.

At 28, and with five years' service at Barclays Bank behind him, Mr Eastwood has a Tessa but no personal equity plan. However, he is concerned that in the future he will have saved up more than the £50,000 Isa tax-free lifetime limit, and believes he will have to find other ways to invest tax-efficiently

He moved to Cardiff three months

ago where he works as a risk analyst, dealing with insolvency issues, particularly with regard to commercial

He is renting at present but thinks he may buy a house in the next six months when he is familiar with the city.

"I am disappointed that the upper limit on the amount of money you can put in an Isa has been capped," he said.

"I would have liked to have been able

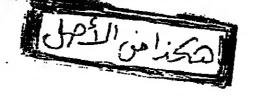
to hold more than £1,000 in cash in the

Isa and because there is no notice period

on the account I worry that the interest rate paid on balances will not be particularly high."

He intends to switch some of his investments into National Savings Certificates or Premium Bonds to make them more tax-efficient and says that the problem with having no notice period on the savings account is that people will have to be very disciplined not to dip into their cash fund.

MARIANNE CURPHEY



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